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THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS IN THE  
NINETEENTH CENTURY.







# The Northern Highlands

IN THE

## Nineteenth Century.

NEWSPAPER INDEX AND ANNALS

*(From the "Inverness Courier.")*

By JAMES BARRON.

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*Volume III.—1842 to 1856.*

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INVERNESS: ROBT. CARRUTHERS & SONS.

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1913.



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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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IN the three volumes which have now been completed the compiler has brought together a large amount of material illustrating the changes in the Highlands during fifty-six years of the Nineteenth Century. For the first six and a-half years he had to rely on notes published by the late James Suter, an Inverness citizen greatly interested in the town and its history ; for the rest of the period, extending to all but fifty years, he drew upon two newspapers, the Inverness Journal, which began publication in August 1807, and the Inverness Courier, which began its career in December 1817. By the arrangement which the compiler has adopted something like a continuous history of the Northern Highlands during an important transition period is presented. While the volumes make no pretension to what is called Literature, they form a useful compendium of information and a newspaper index, which possess value for Northern readers and historical students. The compiler desires to acknowledge the services of his business assistant, Mr William Simpson, who has prepared the indices for the three volumes, and those of his son, James Barron, junior, who saw the third volume through the press.

September 1913.







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## INTRODUCTION.

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**T**HE period of fifteen years, from the beginning of 1842 to the close of 1856, is of great interest alike in the political and social history of the United Kingdom, and in the history of Europe. In domestic legislation and in foreign relations it bears all the marks of agitation and transition. The period extends from the opening of Sir Robert Peel's epoch-making administration till the end of the Crimean war. During this time the country passed through the controversies which resulted in the abolition of the Corn Laws, and experienced the potato famine with its effects on Ireland and the Scottish Highlands. The Chartist movement was a reflection at home of the revolutionary wave which swept over the Continent, and which was the source of vital changes that are still running their course. The outstanding political names in British annals are those of Sir Robert Peel, Lord John Russell, and Lord Palmerston. The same period however, witnessed the rise of Mr Disraeli and Mr Gladstone to a prominent place in the Parliamentary world. In Scotland the Disruption broke up the National Church, and powerfully affected the system of education and the religious and social condition of the people. There was also the extension of railways, partly promoted and partly arrested by what is known as the railway mania. In our own district large railway schemes were proposed, but the only practical outcome for the moment was the short



line from Inverness to Nairn, constructed in 1854. This was, however, the beginning of the present Highland system.

The great Exhibition of 1851 created universal interest, and excited peaceful hopes that were not realised. Through the efforts of Lord Ashley, afterwards Lord Shaftesbury, important Acts were passed for the betterment of the working classes, such as the limitation of the work of women and young persons in factories to ten hours a day, and the exclusion of women and boys under thirteen from working underground. Our volume closes before the Indian Mutiny had startled and enraged the nation, but earlier years had witnessed the disaster in Afghanistan, the conquest of Scinde and the Punjab, and the annexation of Oudh. The discovery of gold in Australia had given a great impetus to colonial expansion in that region. The above-mentioned are a few of the subjects that claim attention in the years which the volume covers.

It is not the purpose of the work to deal with general history, except so far as to keep public affairs in touch with movements which affected the Northern district. In the prefatory notes for each year a summary of the main topics will be found. Nevertheless it may be useful to devote a paragraph or two to subjects primarily of national interest. The General Election of 1841 had given the Conservatives under Sir Robert Peel a strong and compact majority in the House of Commons, a majority estimated at the lowest at 68, and for some purposes rising from 80 to 100. For the previous ten years the Whigs or Liberals had possession of the Govern-



ment, though in the later years they were weak, suffering from the discontent of the Radical wing, and depending largely for support on their Irish allies, led by Daniel O'Connell. Mr Spencer Walpole in his History says that in the closing years of the Whig Ministry "the working-classes were Socialists and Chartists; the middle classes were members of the Anti-Corn Law League." It was this situation, aggravated by Irish turbulence, which confronted Sir Robert Peel when he entered on office as Prime Minister. His reliance was on the landed and agricultural interests, both eager to maintain the Corn Laws. The finances of the country were unsatisfactory, and Peel's restoration of credit renewed general confidence. During the last five years of the Whig Government there had been deficits which amounted in the aggregate to nearly  $7\frac{1}{2}$  millions, or about a million and a half a year. The first Budget of Peel in 1842 re-established the balance of revenue and expenditure, and ere long produced a surplus. Peel accomplished this by imposing the Income-tax, which has since been a mainstay of financial administration, although at first it was intended to be temporary. At the same time he revised the general tariff, reducing or abolishing duties on 750 articles out of 1200. The expenditure of the country at the time was about fifty millions. Peel dealt in the same Budget with the Corn Duties, readjusting the sliding scale which had formerly existed, while the Opposition, led by Lord John Russell, advocated a fixed tariff. A maximum of 73s and a minimum of 50s were assumed as furnishing the swing of the pendulum in the price of wheat. If the home price stood at 50s or 51s, the duty on foreign corn was to be 20s, falling by degrees



until the price came to 73s, when only a duty of one shilling was to be imposed. Russell's scheme of a fixed duty of 8s would have been more tolerable at the lower figures, but more oppressive after the price rose to the neighbourhood of 70s. The popular advocates for the abolition of the Corn Laws were Richard Cobden and John Bright, but the pioneer of the movement in the House of Commons was Mr Charles Villiers, a brother of the Earl of Clarendon.

Within the House, the demand for Free Trade made little progress during the first years of Peel's Ministry, owing to good harvests and the relief which other measures had afforded. The failure of British crops in 1845 and the crisis of the Irish famine were the immediate causes which led to the abolition of the Corn Laws. Peel had to consider how to feed a starving people. He was certainly inconsistent in his policy, and it would have been better if the Opposition—which was gradually as a whole approximating to Free Trade views—had been able to carry out the change. But they were in a minority in the House of Commons, and among the Leaders there were personal differences which prevented Russell from forming a Government, especially as he was in the circumstances reluctant to undertake the task. He would probably have been obliged to dissolve Parliament, and there was no assurance that he would obtain a majority. Peel had therefore almost of necessity to take up the burden, with that portion of his own party which adhered to him and with the aid of the Opposition. The most dramatic incidents in the Debates were the attacks on the Prime Minister by Mr Disraeli, who found his opportunity and used it without mercy.



It is interesting to read the controversy in contemporary records. The best comment on it is perhaps to be found in the words of the London correspondent of the "Courier," who, in describing one of Disraeli's speeches, says—"It was admirable to listen to. Everybody but Peel enjoyed it; but you felt that after all Peel was in the right. Disraeli might be very well—in fact he was very well—but he was fencing, Peel was fighting." A good deal of Parliamentary oratory in former times might be summed up in the same phrases. They are, however, less applicable in the present day, when fencing is occasional and the fighting unusually strenuous.

The condition of Ireland was another difficulty which Peel had to encounter, and that before the famine brought the economic question to the forefront. In the early days of the Conservative Government the agitation for repeal of the Union, led by O'Connell and fomented by young Irishmen, reached its culminating point. Contributions to the movement, called the Repeal Rent, rose as high as from £2000 to £3000 a week in 1842-43. A great mass meeting at Clontarff was, however, proclaimed by the Government, and in 1844 O'Connell was tried on charges of conspiracy and sedition. He was convicted by a jury of Protestants, but on an appeal to the House of Lords the conduct of the trial was found to be irregular, and he was liberated. O'Connell died in 1847. Ireland, however, was in the interval seething with discontent, and there were many murders and other outrages. It was on a Coercion Bill that Peel was defeated. On the very day on which the bill for the abolition of the Corn Laws passed the House of Lords a combination of parties rejected his Irish



proposals in the House of Commons, and he gave way to a Whig Government, under the leadership of Lord John Russell. This happened in June 1846. Peel remained an interesting and prominent figure, and the "Peelites," of whom Mr Gladstone was one, remained for some years a small but influential party in the House. The death of their leader, as the result of a fall from his horse in the summer of 1850, ultimately broke up the section, and most of its members gravitated to the Liberal party.

The Whig Government, which came into office in 1846, was weak in the House of Commons, and its members were not too well united among themselves. A dissolution of Parliament in the summer of 1847 resulted in the return of 333 Liberals, 120 Peelites, and 202 Protectionists, giving the Government a clear majority of no more than 11 over the other two parties. But Sir Robert Peel and his followers gave an independent support to the administration, and the Cabinet retained its place for nearly five years. Disputes with France, with Austria, and with other Continental Powers kept the Foreign Office busy, and 1848, the year of revolution, exacted unceasing vigilance. Lord Palmerston, as Foreign Minister, was frequently attacked by the official Opposition, and his policy, or rather perhaps his somewhat brusque method in upholding British views and interests, was not acceptable to the Queen and the Prince Consort. A memorable debate occurred in June 1850 on Palmerston's conduct in ordering the British Fleet to coerce the Greek Government to pay the claims of a Gibraltar Jew, known as Don Pacifico, who claimed to be, and no doubt was, a



British subject. This man's house had been attacked by a riotous mob in Athens, his wife and family maltreated, and the premises robbed of money, jewels, and papers. Don Pacifico's claims were alleged to be extortinate, but in any case the Greek Ministers displayed an extraordinary degree of obstinacy in delaying to consider the case, and Palmerston's patience at length gave way. His action raised an acute controversy. It was censured in the House of Lords, and in the House of Commons led to a four days' debate. Lord Palmerston's speech, however, nearly five hours in length, carried the House with him. One sentence from it may be quoted at length—"I therefore fearlessly challenge the verdict which this House, as representing a political, a commercial, a constitutional country, is to give on the question now before it—whether the principles on which the foreign policy of her Majesty's Government has been conducted, and the sense of duty which has led us to think ourselves bound to afford protection to our fellow-subjects abroad, are proper and fitting guides for those who are charged with the government of England; and whether, as the Roman in days of old held himself free from indignity when he could say, '*Civis Romanus sum*,' so also a British subject, in whatever land he may be, shall feel confident that the watchful eye and the strong arm of England will protect him against injustice and wrong." The Government won by a majority of 310 against 264, and the phrase, "*Civis Romanus sum*," is still associated with the name of Palmerston.

In his foreign policy Palmerston stood for freedom as against despotic rule, and his strong personality impressed the popular imagination.



It is curious that he fell for a brief moment by his readiness to accept a new despot, whose intentions, perhaps, he had not fathomed. Ministers managed to hold together until Palmerston committed the indiscretion of privately communicating to the French Ambassador, without consulting either the Premier or the Queen, his approval of the "Coup-d'etat" in France, by which, in December 1851, Louis Napoleon destroyed the French Republic of that day. It was his hatred of disorder, and his belief that in his disputes with the French Assembly the Prince President was in the right, that led our Foreign Minister astray. Palmerston was curtly dismissed by Lord John Russell, but he soon afterwards upset the Government by carrying an amendment to their Militia Bill. This brought Lord John's Ministry to a termination.

Lord Derby next came into office, with Mr Disraeli as leader of the House of Commons and Chancellor of the Exchequer. This was, however, a short-lived administration, existing only for ten months. It was made memorable by Mr Disraeli's fantastic Budget, and the clever and daring onslaught—it is still most entertaining reading—which he delivered against the official Whigs. Mr Gladstone stepped into the arena to demolish Mr Disraeli's financial proposals, and soon afterwards to succeed him as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Coalition Ministry formed by Lord Aberdeen. In the same Administration Lord Palmerston served as Home Secretary. This was the well-intentioned Government which blundered into the Crimean war, and which was followed by a re-constructed Government under Lord Palmerston. It is plain that the Crimean war was popular in the country. There was at



the time a passion for freedom, and the Czar Nicholas stood in the public eye for autocracy and its fruits. It was as a protest against his flagrant pretensions to work his will in Turkey and the East that public opinion hurried the Government into war. A more skilful diplomacy might have averted the struggle, but that is the worst that can be urged against the Government of the day. The national sentiment was right and sound in its direction. It was the conduct of the war that roused public indignation—the miseries inflicted on our soldiers by incompetent organisation and wretched transport arrangements. The bright spots in the story are the valour of our men and the intervention of Florence Nightingale as the nurse of our sick and wounded.

The result of Crimean maladministration was to bring Palmerston to the front as the man of the hour. Being only Home Secretary in the Coalition, he was not considered responsible for the war muddle. For ten years thereafter, until his death in 1865, Palmerston represented the average of moderate Liberal opinion, and was not unacceptable to the Conservatives. In spite of his limitations he was a staunch liberty-loving Minister, and prepared to brave any foreign Power for the honour of Britain. One sometimes thinks that as Palmerston was to this country, so is the Kaiser to Germany. They have many traits in common. Only the other day the Emperor used the same language regarding German citizens as Palmerston used regarding British citizens in the Pacifico debate. Whether he had the British Minister's speech in mind we do not know, but the application of Roman citizenship was identical. Although Palmerston



committed some mistakes, which sprang from a buoyant and imperious temperament, he gave expression to the manly spirit of the nation. The confidence which he inspired was invaluable in the dark days of the Indian Mutiny. He went out of office for a short time, but resumed in 1859, to remain to the end of his life in October 1865, passing away as Prime Minister within two days of completing his 81st year. "In one life he summed up the political honours of several generations, for he was a member of every Government from 1807 to 1865, except those of Sir Robert Peel and Lord Derby. He sat in sixteen Parliaments, and was elected to sit in the seventeenth." Our volume comes down only to 1856, but the prominence which Lord Palmerston obtained within the period may excuse this extended notice.

As it happened that the first working session of a new Parliament was in 1842, there were only two general elections in the period between that year and the close of 1856. These elections occurred in 1847 and 1852. In 1847, Mr Morrison, merchant, London, who had represented the Inverness Burghs for seven years (having been returned at a by-election in 1840), retired from Parliament, and Mr Alexander Matheson—created a baronet in 1882—was elected after a contest with an "Independent" or Radical candidate, Mr Hartley Kennedy, a gentleman who had spent a large part of his life in India. This was the first serious division between the two wings of the Liberal party in the Burghs. At the election of 1852 Mr Matheson was not opposed, and although he had to fight two severe contests in subsequent years, he continued to represent the constituency until 1868,



when he retired in order to succeed his uncle, Sir James Matheson, as member for Ross-shire. Sir Alexander's long tenure of twenty-one years in the Burghs was a tribute to his business ability and the great work which he accomplished for the Northern Counties. Some of it is recorded in this volume, but much came later. Sir Alexander, who represented the Attadale family in Lochalsh, had returned from China at the age of thirty-five with a large fortune, and set about acquiring Highland property, beginning in 1840 with the lands of Ardintoul and Letterfearn, on the south side of Lochalsh. Within the next twenty years he built up a large domain in Lochalsh and its neighbourhood, and also acquired the fine property of Ardross and other lands in Easter Ross. In connection with the town of Inverness Sir Alexander purchased, on the west side of the river, part of the estate of Muirtown and smaller properties, all of which were, in process of time, admirably developed under the management of Dr Alexander Ross, architect. The extension of railways, especially of the Highland Railway, was also to a large extent due to Sir Alexander Matheson, who brought into association with himself Highland proprietors like the late Duke of Sutherland, the Earl of Seafield, and Mr Mackintosh of Raigmore. His name will always be associated with the economic progress of the Highlands. He was proud of the land and the people, and did his best for the improvement of both, not always with pecuniary profit to himself.

In the county of Inverness the Right Hon. Henry Baillie retained the seat at both elections without opposition. He was a capable man, of dignified presence and ready speech, respected both by supporters and opponents, and repre-



sented the constituency from 1840 to 1868. In the county of Ross there was a political change. Mr Mackenzie of Applecross carried the seat for the Conservatives in 1837, but retired in 1847, and Mr James Matheson—created a baronet in 1851—was elected without opposition. He had purchased the Island of Lewis from the Seaforth's in 1843, and was at the beginning of a long course of experiments for the improvement of the island and its population. At the election of 1852 Sir James was opposed in the Conservative interest by Mr Ross of Cromarty, but was returned by a majority of 70, and held the seat until 1868, when he retired in favour of his nephew, Sir Alexander. In the counties of Elgin and Nairn, Major Cumming Bruce of Dunphail, Conservative, remained undisturbed. In the Northern Burghs there was a keen contest in 1852 between Mr James Loch, the sitting member, and an Independent Liberal, Mr Samuel Laing, afterwards well-known as a writer and financier. Mr Laing was, unexpectedly, returned by a majority of 31. The only other contest was in Caithness, where the Liberal member, Mr Traill, retained the seat by a majority of 41. Apart from the controversy on the Corn Laws, which did not in this district become acute, as Mr Baillie accepted the policy of Sir Robert Peel, politics in the period excited much less interest than in the ten years which preceded and the ten years which followed. The middle classes who had the franchise were concerned with agricultural improvement and with railway prospects, and were perplexed with the difficulties arising from the Highland famine.

The potato famine, which fell upon the



Highlands in full severity in 1846, and lasted in its immediate effects for five years, fills a prominent place in our newspaper columns. The cultivation of the potato had been in existence for about 100 years, and it had long been the main food of the people. There is an early mention of it in Martin's Description of the Western Islands, published in 1703, where, speaking of the inhabitants of Skye, he says, "their ordinary diet is butter, cheese, milk, potatoes, colworts, brochan, that is oatmeal and water boiled." It is difficult to believe that potatoes were at that time common in Skye, for they were little known on the mainland even a quarter of a century latter. We might imagine that they came into the Western Islands earlier from Ireland, were it not on record that when potatoes were introduced into South Uist by Clanranald in 1743, the crofters stoutly protested and refused to eat them. Possibly some enterprising son of Skye had become acquainted with them elsewhere, for the Royal Society of England urged their cultivation as early as 1663, although their recommendation had little effect. Martin's statement, however, stands, and may be worth further inquiry. In the second half of the eighteenth century, potatoes spread rapidly, and became a staple food in the Highlands and Lowlands. Dr James Robertson, in his survey of the county of Inverness in 1808, says that one-half of the inhabitants of Scotland lived mainly on potatoes during nine or ten months of the year, and that the proportion was higher in the Highlands. In the next thirty years the growth of the plant had probably extended. Such an extraordinary dependence on a single product was certain some day to bring disaster. There



were signs of disease in the Highlands in 1834 and 1835, but they were local and apparently caused little anxiety. The Poor Law Act for Scotland was passed in 1845. It was of some assistance in the disastrous years that followed, but the calamity was far too severe to be dealt with by the new system. Although all Scotland suffered from the disease, its worst consequences fell on the Western Highlands and Islands, where poverty was greatest, where there was little compensation from the cultivation of other crops, and none from the existence of manufacturing industries. The only slight mitigation of an ordinary kind was due to the employment of Highlanders as harvesters in the southern counties, where their wages were from 1s 4d to 1s 8d a day.

Potato disease on an extensive scale occurred in Ireland in the autumn of 1845, and the anticipation of famine led to the abolition of the corn-laws. The disease appeared in the South of England in the same year. The southern counties of Scotland also suffered, and Perthshire was seriously affected, but Forfarshire and Aberdeenshire only to a partial extent. For the moment the Highlands escaped the visitation. In November 1845 the editor is able and glad to say "that in the whole of the seven northern counties there is no mention of the potato distemper, with the exception of one trifling instance in Sutherland, where it is stated to have appeared, but not to such an extent as to cause general alarm." Nevertheless the severity of the calamity in other districts caused universal anxiety. The public mind here as elsewhere was so excited that a riot broke out in Inverness in February 1846 to prevent the shipment of



potatoes at Thornbush Quay. As the disturbance continued for several days, two hundred special constables were sworn in, and a detachment of soldiers was brought up from Fort-George. We are told that "the riot arose from a fear of scarcity and high prices. Corn was said to be unsaleable on account of the Ministerial measures, and potatoes were the only product that realised money to the farmer."

In the autumn of 1846 the failure of the potato crop in the Highlands was found to be practically universal. The first note of destitution came in June from the island of Harris, where the potatoes of the previous year, which were stored in pits, proved to be uneatable, and the people were gathering shell-fish and sand eels for sustenance. In August the total failure of the current crop was everywhere realised, Distressing reports poured in from all quarters. Prompt measures were taken in the district to afford relief. The Provost of Inverness called a public meeting, which appointed a committee to co-operate with the Town Council and the county proprietors. The latter met in the various northern counties to subscribe a guarantee fund. The historian of the period, Mr Spencer Walpole, draws attention to the fact that the Government, overwhelmed by the extent of the calamity in Ireland, did little for the Highlands, except to provide vessels and means of administration, and latterly to advance loans to proprietors under the Drainage Act. "Yet," says Mr Walpole, "the lairds of Western Scotland showed the Irish landlords an example which the latter might have followed with advantage." Our columns fully corroborate this statement, except that liberality was not confined to the western



lairds, although they no doubt bore the brunt of the disaster. Sir James Matheson, who had recently purchased the Island of Lewis, guaranteed for the island a supply of Indian corn to the value of £10,000, and before the destitution was at an end his outlays came to £40,000. Macleod of Macleod and Lord Macdonald impoverished themselves by their efforts in the Island of Skye. The Duke of Sutherland undertook, at an enormous expense, the safety of the Sutherland crofters. He spent, it is stated, £78,000 in the famine years. It soon, however, appeared that apart from Sutherland, outside aid would be required for the rest of the Highlands. A meeting was called in Edinburgh in December, and another in Glasgow in January 1847 to raise subscriptions, and astonishing sums of money were raised from people at home and abroad. A Central Board was formed and divided into two sections, each taking charge of the relief of a certain portion of the country, and each having its own secretary and treasurer. To the Edinburgh section was assigned the North-West Highlands and Shetland.

It must be remembered that the calamity extended over a series of five years, becoming in the latter years less acute, but still involving serious destitution. In the autumn of 1846 Sir Edwin Coffin as Government Commissioner made a tour of inspection, and offered to put revenue cutters at the disposal of the proprietors to carry meal or corn. On the part of the Board of Supervision arrangements were made to supply the wants of those who were actually paupers. In the neighbourhood of Inverness the crofters of the Black Isle appear to have been the chief sufferers, and among the same class along the



eastern shores of Ross-shire, there was grave destitution. It was natural, perhaps, that food riots should break out at the eastern ports, from Beaully to Wick, to prevent the export of corn. Detachments of soldiers had in several cases to be called in. But these outbreaks were temporary, and had little effect on the general situation. County committees in the first instance organised relief. Along the West Coast and in the Islands the distress was deplorable. Sheriff Fraser, Fort-William, reported that of the total population of Arisaig, 868 in number, there were 671 requiring relief, and this was considered typical of neighbouring districts. In Lochaber, in October 1846, it was reported that the ground which was least affected had not yielded one-fourth of the quantity put into the soil as seed. It was estimated at the same time that in South Uist and Barra 7000 or 8000 bolls of meal would be required to supply the wants of the people; in North Uist about 4000 bolls, and in Harris 5000 bolls. In February 1847, the necessary supply in Skye was estimated at 30,000 bolls, and after all available resources were exhausted, the supplementary cost would be £50,000. In January 1848 Captain Elliott, who had been appointed Inspector-General, reported that in six parishes in Skye and the western districts of Ross-shire there were 1680 able-bodied crofters who had no means to support their families, and also 900 widows, either single or with families, who were in the same position. A further report shows that in the summer of 1848 there was an average of 5000 persons receiving assistance in Skye. "In the Western Ross area 3576 were receiving relief in May, but the number had fallen about one-half on the completion of agree-



ments for road-making." These figures give some indication of the magnitude of the calamity.

In reviewing the conditions in the Highlands in 1846-47 and subsequent years, special acknowledgment should be made of the voluntary generosity by which the famine was alleviated. Proprietors, as we have seen, assumed heavy responsibilities, and some involved themselves in debt from which they did not recover for a generation. But in addition to this, the amount of money contributed throughout the country and by our kinsmen abroad proved to be of immense value—in truth it may be said to have saved the situation. We have before us a number of Reports published by the Edinburgh section of the Destitution Board, which was formed to administer the subscriptions. In the end of 1847 this section furnished the following abstract of sums received :—

I. Edinburgh and Leith	...	...	£10,430	8	1
II. Counties, Parishes, and Provincial					
Townships of Scotland	...	...	30,685	15	4
III. Free Church Balance	...	...	7,551	17	3
IV. London and other parts of England			8,083	2	7
V. British Association...	...	...	31,000	0	0
VI. National Club	...	...	950	0	0
VII. The Army	...	...	416	9	6
VIII. East Indies	...	...	18,547	15	9
IX. West Indies	...	...	293	7	0
X. The Canadas	...	...	6,030	12	8
XI. United States	...	...	4,081	10	4
XII. Cape of Good Hope...	...	...	872	0	0
XIII. Constantinople	...	...	99	10	10
			<hr/>		
			£119,043	9	4

It will be seen from these figures that besides the direct subscriptions at home and abroad, a body called the British Association entrusted to



the Board a large amount of funds. The report states that the British Association raised the money for the joint-behoof of the Irish and Scottish sufferers, and sent one-sixth to the Central Board ; also that a great proportion of the other subscriptions, so far as not obtained in Scotland, formed a share of the subscriptions raised for both Ireland and Scotland. It will be seen that the Free Church, formed only a few years before the famine, recognised its duty to the Highlands, and handed over what is called a balance of £7551 to the Edinburgh Board. The East Indies, Canada, and the United States played a generous part. A paragraph in our columns states that the 78th Regiment, then stationed in India, subscribed £140 for the relief of Highland and Irish distress. Further contributions flowed into the Board's exchequer in subsequent years. The final financial report of the Edinburgh section, drawn up in the end of 1851, stated that the total contributions received by the Edinburgh Committee in money and kind came to £151,532, and that all of it had been expended except £1304. Details show that in money £80,086 4s had come from Scotland, England, the Colonies, and foreign countries, and that the United States sent supplies of grain and meal to the value of £13,255. The British Association had contributed over £58,000. The Glasgow section likewise raised a large sum of money for each child under twelve years, while the mother received a further allowance for spinning or knitting. The elder children of a family received a full ration "for such work as they could give." Incidentally, it is mentioned that 6s per week was at this time no uncommon wage for labour in Skye, and the supplies under the



“test” were supposed to be equivalent. Naturally poor people thought themselves hardly treated, but in the circumstances friction was inevitable. The outstanding fact remains that in the Highlands no one died of starvation. There were allegations about a single case, but inquiry brought out the fact that death was due to family ignorance and neglect.

A serious question before the Relief Boards was the economic condition of the Highlands apart from the famine. How could future destitution be averted? The only thing which the committees could do was to encourage works which would be of permanent value, and start the population, so far as possible, on methods of self-support. In pursuance of the first object piers were erected and roads constructed. For the making of roads the Edinburgh section contributed a proportion of funds in consideration of the proprietors undertaking the relief of the destitute on their estates. In this way the road from Kinlochewe to Slattadale was made, and also the road from Aultbea to Poolewe and the Dundonell road. Mention is likewise made of a road from Garve to Ullapool, but this was probably some kind of re-construction, or the completion of an existing roadway. In Sutherland the road from Lairg to Laxford appears to have been carried out at this time. Captain Eliott speaks highly of the measures adopted by the Duke of Sutherland for maintaining the destitute at his sole charge. In Wester Ross piers were constructed at various places and roads were made in Skye. Active efforts were likewise undertaken to instruct the wives of cottars and crofters in the knitting of hosiery, so that the promotion of Highland home industries



may be said to date from this period. Assistance was given for the provision of fishing boats, and arrangements were made for the disposal of fish. Attention was given to the proper cultivation of crofts. The Glasgow section likewise constructed piers and encouraged fishing and other objects in the south-western districts and islands. The final reports of both boards, however, end in a note of disappointment. The Glasgow Board, at the close of 1850, confessed that the majority of the inhabitants of the district were, many of them, in a worse condition than when the destitution, dating from 1846, began. The editor of the "Courier," summing up the work of the Edinburgh Board in the beginning of 1852, says that "the result of this splendid fund has altogether been so unpopular and so unproductive generally, proportioned to its amount, that we are convinced no such subscription will ever again be raised in the Highlands." The conditions, in fact, were beyond any temporary remedy. Emigration was regarded as a necessity, and during the destitution years and afterwards a large number of people left the Highlands for the Colonies.

Before the famine began and after it was over—but not during its greatest severity—evictions in several quarters created public excitement and indignation. It was impossible to give in this volume more than short passages relating to these occurrences, but any one wishing to obtain information could not do better than study our newspaper files, where in the form of articles, interviews and correspondence, all the facts are fully set forth. The editor of that time, the late Dr Carruthers, strongly condemned evictions,



and, in fact, was the first to draw attention to threatened clearances in Ross-shire, which, it would appear, were in the end only partially carried out. In some of the more distant cases he had to rely on correspondents, but he frequently sent a representative of the paper, who ascertained the circumstances of the people, and published their statements as well as those of the officials who were concerned. Even Mr Donald Macleod, the author of "Gloomy Memories," who attacked the Courier for its first account of the disturbances at Durness in 1841, afterwards wrote :—"I am happy to be able in a great degree to exonerate that journal from the charge brought against it in former letters. The Editor has put the saddle on the right horse, namely, his first informers, the advisers and actors in the cruel and vindictive proceedings against the poor victims of oppression." This Durness affair is recorded in the second volume of the series. The evictions were not at the instance of the proprietor but of the tenant, who held under an old lease, and was anxious to oust his sub-tenants. Its importance arose from the deforcement, or threatened deforcement, of sheriff-officers, and the inquiry which followed. The result was that "upon an impartial and humane view of the whole matter," counsel for the Crown came to the conclusion that there were not sufficient grounds for a criminal prosecution.

The writer does not think that this is the place to review at any length the history of the unfortunate clearances in the Highlands, but only to summarise those incidents that happened during the period under notice. The clearances have been made the subject of keen controversy, and most of the publications on the subject have



been marred by extreme statements both for and against proprietors. Perhaps the fairest opinion is expressed by one of the speakers in Professor Blackie's *Altavona*, who in referring to the Sutherland Clearances, says—"I hold it proven that in Sutherland, as in other parts of the Highlands, there existed a large population, beyond what the district could profitably support, who carried on their tenure from father to son, without any capacity of progress; but as this population had been allowed to grow up under the eye and even with the encouragement of the proprietor and the Government, it was not the people who ought to have been made to suffer from the neglect and misconduct of their natural heads; and this state of the case furnished an additional reason why any changes that took place should have been made with peculiar tenderness and delicacy." It may be added that although proprietors and their advisers were mainly responsible for the evictions, the old tacksmen cannot be exonerated from a large measure of responsibility for the conditions which grew up and prevailed. A report which was issued in 1791 by the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge gives a glimpse of the action of the tacksmen. "The secretary," it says, "was assured upon authority which appeared to him conclusive that since the year 1772 [that is within twenty years] no less than sixteen vessels, full of emigrants, have sailed from the western parts of the counties of Inverness and Ross alone, containing, it is supposed, 6400 souls, and carrying with them in specie at least £38,000 sterling." That is to say, there was a large emigration of well-to-do people, who held the crofters as their sub-tenants, and who



left these people to their own successors and to the proprietors, to be dealt with according to their pleasure. The kind of life which the crofters and cottars led is depicted in the journal of an English servant, who was in the West Coast and Skye in the later years of the eighteenth century. It was impossible that such a state of things as he describes could continue; although, as a matter of fact, remnants of the same semi-patriarchal system were found by Alexander Smith and described in his *Summer in Skye*, published in 1865. If the tacksmen and better-class tenants of an earlier date had adapted themselves at home to the changes which were inevitable, there would have been less hardship to the common people; and the new class of capitalists, who were alien to the native population, would have lost the opportunity to tempt proprietors and to effect changes marked by haste and ruthlessness.

The evictions recorded in this volume began with Glen-Calvie, in the parish of Kincardine in Ross-shire—evictions threatened in 1842 and carried out in 1845. The facts of this case illustrate the situation which often existed on a larger scale. Only four tenants were recognised by the landlord, but there were fourteen subtenants, and the whole population of ninety persons had to depart. There were no arrears of rent, and the proprietor was absent with his regiment in Australia. About the same time four hundred tenants in the counties of Ross and Cromarty were served with summonses of removal, but this huge clearance appears to have been abandoned; indeed the editor says he understands that “a large proportion of those who had been summoned were to be continued on their farms.” In 1849 evictions at Sollas in North



Uist attracted much attention. The population consisted of 110 families, numbering 603 souls. According to the estate authorities the rental of the townships was £382, the arrears amounted to £624, and for two years the people had been aided by the Highland Destitution Committee, and were then living on meal supplied gratis by the proprietor. He had also offered to convey the people to Canada, but they averred that they had not received sufficient notice, and that it was too late in the season (July) to go to the other side. The sheriff-officers were deforced in serving summonses, and four men were afterwards tried at the Inverness Circuit Court and convicted, the jury adding a rider recommending them to leniency "in consideration of the cruel, though it may be legal, proceedings adopted." The presiding judge, Lord Cockburn, did not consider that the case required severe punishment, and passed sentence of four months' imprisonment on each. A sequel to this case occurred in the transference of the Sollas crofters to another part of the island of North Uist, funds being furnished by a committee formed in Perth, and the settlement being consequently called the New Perth Settlement. The enterprise, however, did not prove a success. After an expenditure of £2300, it was found that the attempt was a failure, and in 1852 most of the crofters agreed to emigrate to Canada.

Another set of clearances took place in 1850 on Strathconan, the property of Mr Balfour, or his trustees. The tenantry consisted in part of persons who held club farms, with a proportion of squatters. The explanation offered was that the tenants of one of the farms had asked to be relieved of their holdings, and that this called for other changes. In the result 125 persons were



removed, reducing the population from 508 to 383. By far the most sensational of the evictions, however, occurred in Knoydart in 1853, carried out by the widow of Macdonell of Glengarry. About 400 persons were in this instance removed. The estate officials alleged that not one in ten of the crofters had paid rent for periods extending from six to fifteen years, but the friends of the crofters pointed out that this included the famine years, and they believed it was the intention of the late Glengarry to wipe out the arrears. An inquirer ascertained that the arrears amounted nominally to £2300, but in 1846 Glengarry had directed that no rent should be asked for, as he looked on the people "less as tenantry than as children and followers." However this may be, the evictions went on. A large number of the crofters consented to emigrate, but about twenty families refused, and their houses were levelled to the ground, and their inmates forbidden shelter. Their sufferings caused intense indignation throughout the country. In Barra and South Uist there was also enforced emigration, which amounted to eviction. In this instance likewise the proprietor pleaded heavy pecuniary loss, but his proceedings were regarded as peculiarly harsh. There was strong criticism on account of the destitute condition in which the emigrants arrived in Canada.

In the conditions above recounted it was natural that emigration should be considered a necessity. The people were not anxious to go if they could avoid it, and one can easily understand their reluctance. They were deeply attached to their own land, most of them knew no language except Gaelic, and they were ignorant of the outside world. But in spite of these disadvantages many of them saw that no other



course was open, and they yielded to the compulsion of circumstances. It would be difficult to say how many thousands left the Highlands in the years between 1846 and 1856. According to Mr Maciver, factor for the Scourie district of Sutherland, nearly a thousand persons emigrated from the north-west of that county in the three years beginning in 1847. They were sent at the expense of the Duke of Sutherland, the cost being £7000. Nearly 1000 persons were sent from the Lews to Canada in 1852 by Sir James Matheson, who provided them with food and clothing and a free passage, and with means for a week's support after their arrival. In the same year (1852) a Highland Emigration Society was formed, which reported that in the first year of its operations it had sent out 2600 persons to Australia. These are but specimens of the stream of emigration that went on for several years at the famine time and afterwards. Of course emigration was no new thing, although its extent varied with circumstances. It is rather startling to find that in 1841 a Committee of the House of Commons reported that on the west coast of the counties of Argyll, Inverness and Ross, the excess of population, who were for part of every year in a state of destitution, amounted to a total variously estimated at from 45,000 to 80,000. Taking even the smaller figure, this was a portentous condition of affairs, and no one nowadays can be surprised that emigration was regarded as a necessary method of relief. Sad as was the expatriation of the people, their transference resulted in providing the very best kind of material for young and promising colonies. If members of the landed classes had gone along with them to guide, protect, and instruct—in short to act as their leaders in new



lands—there would be less criticism to offer on changes in the Highlands.

It remains to be seen what effect the changes of the last 110 years have had on the population of the Northern Counties. The first statutory census was taken in 1801, showing the total population of Scotland at that date to be 1,608,420. In the period of one hundred and ten years that has since passed, the total has risen to 4,759,445, showing an increase of 3,151,025, or 195.9 per cent. In other words the population is now nearly three times as great as it was at the beginning of the nineteenth century. So far as the total growth is concerned, this is a satisfactory result, though we find tendencies at work which cause apprehension. During the past ten years the increase amounts only to 287,342, which is the smallest since 1861, the contraction being due to a falling birth-rate and continuous emigration. The most disappointing feature is the fact that the people who live by the land have sadly diminished in number during the past sixty years. In the five Northern Counties we are, indeed, in total population still considerably higher than we were in 1801, but not much higher than in 1821, and very much lower than in 1851, which marks the dividing line. The following figures show the position in the two earlier returns just mentioned :—

			1801.	1821.
Inverness-shire	...	...	72,672	89,961
Nairnshire	...	...	8,322	9,268
Ross and Cromarty	...	...	56,318	68,762
Sutherland	...	...	23,117	23,840
Caithness	...	...	22,609	29,181
			183,038	221,012



The total of the same area was this year returned as 226,144. Sutherland has the unfortunate distinction of being 2938 less than in 1801, and Inverness-shire is 2389 less than in 1821. Nairnshire has fluctuated less than any county during the period. The maximum population of Inverness-shire (97,799) was reached in 1841, but the maximum for the group was attained in 1851. The following are the figures for the latter year and for the present year :—

	1851.	1911.
Inverness-shire ...	96,500	87,272
Nairnshire ...	9,956	9,319
Ross and Cromarty	82,707	77,364
Sutherland ...	25,793	20,179
Caithness ...	38,709	32,010
	<hr/> 253,665	<hr/> 226,144

The net result is that the group of counties has a population smaller by 27,521 than in 1851. The landward districts must show proportionately a greater falling-off, as the towns have grown in population since the middle of the century, Inverness itself having increased to the extent of about 12,000. If we allow 18,000 for the increase in all the towns in the area, the rural decrease since 1851 is over 45,000. It has also to be noted that according to the census report, the returns for Ross and Cromarty were augmented in 1911 by 4000 men of the Fleet, who were in Cromarty Firth on the census day. Discounting this fortuitous incident, the population would have been 3097 smaller than ten years ago. As the Lews shows an increase of 652 since 1901, the mainland has been greatly depleted. Nor is it to be forgotten that during the



past two years voluntary emigration from the Highlands has been going forward in increasing ratio. It is difficult to say what numbers have left, but the difficulty nowadays is to keep young men at home. The sailings from the Clyde during the last two years are estimated at 50,000. Many of these emigrants went from other parts of Scotland, but the proportion from the Highlands must have formed a considerable factor in the total.

These are stern facts, fitted to cause reflection and anxiety, and to claim any available and properly conceived remedy. They are not solitary facts confined to the Highlands alone, but are paralleled in other parts of Scotland, and more or less throughout the world. There are general causes operating to bring about rural depopulation, even if we allow that local causes in the Highlands have aggravated the movement. The population of the five counties is still 43,000 higher than it was in 1801—some consolation, perhaps, though a small one. In view of the downward tendency the cry for an extension of small holdings is perfectly legitimate. But in sober fact it is necessary to point out that the increase of population from this source can never be anything except limited. The new policy must be accompanied by afforestation, agricultural co-operation, and some kind of industrial expansion, if the population is to be largely increased on a sound economic basis. There is pathos and significance in the fact that the population of the area in 1911 was 10,000 less than in 1891, the first census after the passing of the Crofters Act. There is, however, far greater comfort now than there was even twenty years ago, and it is to be hoped that any increase which



may in future take place will be accompanied by an improvement in the ordinary conditions of life.

In 1843 occurred the Disruption of the Church of Scotland, an event which affected the whole country, and especially the Highlands. In many of the rural parishes in that area the ministers seceded, and whether they did or not, the Parish Churches for the most part were swept bare of worshippers. The town of Inverness, of course, shared in the excitement, but to a less extent than the country round about. There was a simple and sufficient reason for this. The only ministers who left the Establishment here were those of the East Church and the North Church, and as these were not Parish Churches, but had been built by the people themselves, and no attempt was made to remove their pastors or claim their edifices, service went on pretty much as before. The only change was the erection of a new English Church, now the United Free High Church, which was promptly set about, and was filled from the first by a large congregation. There was, however, even apart from controversy, room for a church of the kind, as there were adherents in all the other churches who knew no Gaelic. In the rural parishes there was for a time much bitterness, but only in a small area in Ross-shire was there any disturbance, and this also soon disappeared. The Free Church ministers set their faces against anything in the nature of violence. They might denounce the religion of the "Moderates," but they forbade their adherents to do anything more than cease attendance at the Parish Churches. For a time hostile feeling was aggravated by the refusal of some proprietors to grant sites for Free Churches.



This spirit also passed away, when it was found that the mass of the people were at once earnest and orderly. A meeting of Free Church Assembly, held at Inverness in August 1845, helped not only to keep alive enthusiasm, but to settle disputes about sites. Incidents connected with the Disruption are given in the volume, but need not be dwelt upon here. It may only be said that one of the strangest cases, and one which long occupied the attention of Church Courts, was the Daviot case in this neighbourhood. It began several years before the Disruption, and had a considerable influence in accelerating the movement. The Daviot people were strongly in favour of having as their minister the Rev. Archibald Cook, then of the North Church, Inverness, but the Crown persistently declined to present him. Presentees were vetoed by the handful of communicants—who in this instance represented the wishes of the parishioners—and their protest was steadily upheld by the Assembly. The case was complicated by the fact that there was a good deal of separatism in the parish, due originally to the popularity of a catechist named Patrick Stewart, who seems to have had a genius for preaching in Gaelic. Had Mr Cook been presented this division would have ceased. The Crown, however, as represented by the Home Secretary, continued its opposition till the Disruption came, with the result that Daviot was for six years without a parish minister. In 1844 Mr Cook became minister of the Free Church of Daviot, and for more than twenty years thereafter maintained the attachment of a united people.

The proposed introduction of railway communication excited much interest in the period



under review. Various schemes were launched which did not come at the time to fruition, but which have since been carried through. A movement for a railway between Inverness and Perth was started in 1844, and in order to show the traffic to be expected it was stated that besides regular steamers plying between London, Leith, and Glasgow, "there were nine daily coaches, as well appointed as any in Britain, starting from and arriving at Inverness." The promoters, after a little delay, produced a complete scheme, and in May 1846 laid it before a Committee of the House of Commons, but only to be disappointed. The Committee came to the conclusion that the gradients leading upwards to the Grampians were too steep to be safely and successfully negotiated. "In vain did seven engineers of the highest professional reputation depone that there was no difficulty in the case—that several steeper gradients were now successfully worked on many of the existing lines." The members of the Committee shook their wise heads. The gradients, they said, were not only steep but long, and they seemed to think that engines would become wearied dragging carriages up the incline. An attempt was also made to show that the snow-blocks would be terrific, but the promoters declared with truth that their climate was less subject to severe snow-storms than the Aberdeen climate. In the issue, however, the Committee proved obdurate, and besides suffering disappointment the promoters lost heavily in money. At this time they feared that Inverness would never be anything more than a link with Aberdeen, which naturally chuckled over their defeat. For some years railway projects were in abeyance. The first line to be constructed was a short



line of six miles from Elgin to Lossiemouth, which was opened in 1852. Then Inverness again began to move, this time in a tentative way. In the end of 1853 a prospectus was issued for the construction of a railway between Inverness and Nairn; in July 1854 the promoters obtained their bill; in September of the same year the first turf was cut; and on the 5th of November 1855 the little line, which proved to be the forerunner of greater things, was opened. In less than a year afterwards the bill was passed for the construction of the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway, which sanctioned the first through line of communication. A few years later came the first part of the Ross-shire line and the line to Perth, and so gradually the Highland Railway was built up.

Land improvement in various directions was carried out with intelligence and activity during the period, and did not altogether cease until about 1875, when prices began to fall. It was accompanied by an extension of the sheep-farming area, but in arable districts which were in touch with southern markets, cultivation and reclamation went forward. Among the earliest improvers were Mr Young of Burghead, who was extensively employed in Ross-shire as well as in Morayshire, and Mr Rose Ross of Cromarty, the son of a parish minister of Creich, who returned with a fortune from the West Indies, and made large purchases of land in Easter Ross. It was stated at the time of his death in 1848, that "by a free and judicious expenditure of capital in planting and agriculture, he has changed the face of an immense extent of country, and converted barren moors into fine plantations and corn fields." Mr Ross carried on tile works and tile



draining, and planted beech and thorn hedges in Easter Ross which, it was computed, extended to about forty miles. Another improver was Mr Kennedy, who purchased the estate of Bogbain, near Tain, and spent £15,000 in successful reclamation. In earlier days the Baillies of Dochfour and Mr Mackintosh of Raigmore had beautified and improved the district round Inverness. In the late forties and early fifties the Culloden estate benefited by the work of Mr Rose, who received an improving lease of the farm of Leanach, and reclaimed most of the land in the neighbourhood of Culloden Battlefield. Sir Alexander Matheson was a great improver in Ross-shire, planting, draining, building, and reclaiming—much of the reclamation work being effected by the late Mr Mackenzie, Achindunie. A great part of this work failed, perhaps, in the end to prove profitable to proprietors, but it was of immediate and permanent service to the countryside, and should not be forgotten in modern times. Farmer societies were busy at the same time in discussing the best methods of increasing the properties of the soil. It is significant that at the Great Exhibition of 1851, Mr Mackillican obtained a medal for his sample of wheat from Piperhill, Cawdor, and only failed to receive the same recognition for his sample of perennial ryegrass because no exhibitor was allowed to obtain more than one prize medal. Mr Mackillican's wheat weighed 65 lbs. 1 oz. to the bushel. Lord Lovat, it may be noted, employed a teacher in Strathglass to instruct the people in the elements of agricultural chemistry. Frequent reports were made on the results of plantation. Mr Grant of Kincorth showed the possibility of clothing pure sandhills on the out-



skirts of Culbin with thriving plantations of Scotch and larch firs. Of more commercial value were the extensive plantations in connection with the estates of Balnagown, Ardross and Fairburn. The work of planting has gone on in other districts since that day, but we are still waiting for the application of Government funds which can alone secure the benefit of a general scheme of afforestation for the Highlands.

Improvements connected with the town of Inverness call for a brief notice. The drive round the Longman was constructed in 1849, partly by Government assistance, partly by private subscription, and aid from the Harbour Trustees. The extension of the Kessock embankment, undertaken by the Mackintosh Trustees, was brought to a completion by Sir Alexander Matheson of Ardross, who accepted a contribution of £250 from the Trustees, while the work cost £900. The sale to Sir Alexander of part of the Muirtown estate between the canal and the River Ness was a transaction from which the town has received enormous benefit. The prison on the Castlehill (now added to the county buildings) was begun in 1846 and completed in 1849. At the western end of the Castlehill the lodge and gateway were afterwards constructed, and the iron railing run along the summit. About the same time the roadway between the hill and the river was widened, and the present retaining wall erected. In 1851 the old prison in Bridge Street was purchased by the Town Council for £420, and the lower part converted into shops. After the flood of 1849 the Ness Islands had to be improved afresh, and new bridges erected. This work was effected by a committee, of which Dr Alexander Ross and the late Mr Walter Car-



ruthers were active members. They had great difficulty in raising the necessary funds, but the amount was ultimately forthcoming.

The chief calamity connected with the town was the great flood of January 1849, which swept away the old stone bridge. The leading details of this disaster are given in the volume. For years thereafter there was discussion and disappointment respecting the new bridge which was to take its place. At first the Government attempted to disclaim responsibility, alleging, on the faith of their engineer, Mr Walker, that the breach of the canal banks at Dochgarroch had not contributed to the disaster. Driven from this point by the evidence submitted to them, and by the reports of Mr Joseph Mitchell and Mr Leslie, civil engineers, they sent down another engineer, Mr Rendel, to suggest a site and plan. Three sites had been named, namely, the old site at Bridge Street, one at Fraser Street, and one opposite Wells Street. Fortunately Mr Rendel selected the old site, and recommended an iron girder bridge, in place of which a suspension bridge was adopted. The terms exacted by the Treasury were to advance the whole sum necessary for construction, half by way of gift, half as a loan—the latter to be spread over twenty-two years at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and the amount to be deducted from the grant then payable for Highland Roads and Bridges to the four northern counties. The terms having been accepted, work was begun in June 1852. But further disappointment was in store. The first two sets of contractors failed, owing to the difficulty of constructing the foundations. Below the spot intended for the tower the workmen found a bed of clay “almost as hard as stone itself.” Mr Joseph



Mitchell wrote that he had warned the engineer of the existence of this bed, but his statements had been disregarded. However this may be, the work went slowly forward, but it was not until August 1855, six and a-half years after the destruction of the stone bridge, that the Suspension Bridge was opened for traffic. If the delay was great, acknowledgment was made of the substantial construction and finish of the work. The net cost of the bridge was £25,365, leaving from the funds provided a credit balance of £770. Mr Rendel reported that to secure beyond doubt the safety of the bridge it had been deemed necessary "to lay its foundations so much below the level of the bed of the river, that the intended deepening of the harbour on the one hand, and the violence of Loch-Ness on the other, should not scour the river to such a depth as to undermine the bridge works." As a matter of fact the excavations went down twenty-three feet below high flood and spring-tide level. A service bridge and ferry boat accommodated the town until the Suspension Bridge was opened.

The visit of Queen Victoria to Ardverikie in 1847 excited much interest. Locally Her Majesty's stay culminated in the visit of Prince Albert to Inverness and his presence at the Northern Meeting. The Queen, however, did not choose Badenoch as her Highland seat. She selected Balmoral, which was for many years more accessible. During her stay at Ardverikie the weather was less favourable than it often is in the Highlands in the end of August and the first half of September.

Many incidents of an interesting character are to be found in the volume, but only one or



two need be mentioned here. An attempt which was made to revive the cultivation of flax in Glen-Urquhart did not prove successful. Inverness Town Council offered a premium of £10 as an inducement to run an omnibus to Kessock Ferry, a project which also came to a speedy end. During the herring fishing the town was ill supplied with ordinary fish, and the Council agreed to try what a bounty would do, so they offered to pay 1s 3d "for every full-sized creel of fish brought into the town during the time of the herring fishing." We do not know what was the effect of this provision, or how long it lasted. A snow-storm in 1852 isolated the town for a whole week from mail communication with the world outside the county. The editor of the "Courier" would have found himself destitute of general and political news unless two Edinburgh steamers had arrived from Leith, bringing some papers from the capital. An old man, named John Maclean, known in his later years as the Centenarian, died in January 1852, about ten days before the date of this snow-storm. "In his youth there was only a weekly post from the South by means of foot runners over the hills; and when the weather happened to be 'coarse,' or the runner took 'a glass too much,' the letters were often several days behind." Old times must have seemed to be revived when the town was again isolated. It is curious to find that even during this trying week letters came from Badenoch. The interruption was in the route from Aberdeen, by which the mails were carried.

A number of public men who had taken a leading part in the business of the town and neighbourhood passed away during the period. Mr Grant of Bught died in 1842, and in 1843



ex-Provost Gilzean, who left a large fortune, which was bequeathed to his grand-children, the family of Rose Innes of Netherdale, whose descendants have still a connection through property with the town. Mr Gilzean, who had reached his eighty-seventh year, was one of the company which met Robert Burns at dinner in the house of Provost Inglis in 1787. During a short visitation of cholera in 1849—the last which has appeared in the town—a distinguished physician, manufacturer, and ex-Provost, Dr John Inglis Nicol was struck down by the disease. Ex-Provost John Ferguson, another well-known name, died in 1850. Mr William Fraser-Tytler of Aldourie, who had been sheriff of the county of Inverness for forty-two years, died in 1853, and in 1854 Mr John Mackenzie, banker, who was the first Provost of the town after the passing of the Reform Act in 1832. Of wider reputation was the Rev. Dr Macdonald of Ferintosh, who passed away in 1849. The two Reachs, father and son, who had proved so valuable as London correspondents, died, the former in 1853, the latter in 1856. The last entry in the volume records the death in December 1856, of the editor's friend Hugh Miller, whose career will live in the literary and scientific history of the English speaking world.

The population of the town and parish of Inverness was 15,418 at the census of 1841, and 16,496 in 1851. In 1911 the total was 25,952, a drop of about 1000 from the census of 1901. The town proper, given in detail in the recent census returns, shows as follows:—Municipal burgh, 9100 in 1841, 9969 in 1851, 21,238 in 1901, and 22,216 (extended area) in 1911.

Three papers of general interest appear in



the appendix to the present volume. The first consists of extracts from the letter-book of an Inverness merchant in 1745-46 ; the second of a journal written by an English servant who came to the Highlands in 1781 ; and the third is a report on the condition of the Highlands in 1791, prepared for the Society for Propogating Christian Knowledge.

September 1913.







## ERRATUM.

Pages 229 and 323—The brothers Grant of Manchester, celebrated by Dickens as “The Cheeryble Brothers,” died during the period covered by this volume. The elder brother, William, died in 1842. In 1851 a report of Daniel’s death must have been circulated, as there is a paragraph announcing it in June 1851 (page 229). The report, however, was incorrect. Daniel survived until March 1855 (page 323). The brothers, who were natives of Strathspey, migrated with their parents and other members of the family to Lancashire in 1783. A biographical account of the family, under the title of “The Story of the ‘Cheeryble’ Grants,” by the Rev. W. Hume Elliot, was published in 1906 by Sherratt & Hughes, Manchester. The Grants were related, through their mother, to Lord Strathcona.







# THE NORTH

IN THE

## NINETEENTH CENTURY.

[THIRD SERIES].

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No. 1.



IN the year 1842 the Conservative Government, under Sir Robert Peel, which had come into office as the result of the General Election of 1841, began its memorable career in financial and other legislation. The financial policy of the preceding Liberal Government had proved unfortunate. Peel resolved to revise the tariff. He carried his plan of a sliding scale for wheat by a majority of 123. He also proposed and carried an income and property tax, and abolished or reduced taxes on 750 out of 1200 articles which up to that time were subject to customs duties. These measures were regarded with suspicion by some of the dominant party, and the Duke of Buckingham, Lord Privy Seal, retired from the Government. Great riots occurred in Lancashire arising out of disputes in the cotton trade.

The Non-Intrusion controversy in the Church of Scotland was rapidly approaching a crisis. Preparations were in progress for the Disruption, which took place in the following year. Sir James Graham, Home Secretary, refused the claims of the Non-Intrusionists. He did not understand the situation in Scotland, but it is clear from his *Life*, published in 1907, that he acted from conscientious motives. In our local annals the Daviot case held a prominent position. Threatened evictions and resistance at Glencalvie, in Ross-shire, attracted much attention.



The year is also memorable for the disaster to the British troops in Afghanistan, of which Dr Brydon was the sole survivor. The war began under Sir Charles Napier, which ended in the annexation of Scinde.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1842.

January 5.—A presentation in favour of the Rev. D. Macdonald as assistant and successor to the Rev. Dr Rose, of the Inverness High Church, was laid before the Presbytery. Some objection was made on the score of imperfect Gaelic.

Ibid.—Owing to the death of Councillor W. Lyon, a vacancy had occurred in the Inverness Town Council. The question was raised whether his successor should be elected by the Ward or by the Council. The Town-Clerk ruled that the election must be made by the Council, and Mr William Dallas was accordingly appointed.

Ibid.—Return of Mr Murchison, afterwards Sir Roderick, from his second geological expedition to Russia.

January 12.—A controversy had arisen as to the place for holding the Ross-shire county meetings. At a meeting of deputy-lieutenants, commissioners of supply, heritors, and justices of the peace, held at Dingwall, a resolution was passed declaring that all general county meetings, not otherwise fixed by law, should be held at Dingwall. Before this meeting was constituted, a protest against its legality was handed in by Mr Ross of Cromarty, who told its members that "he would meet them again at Philippi."

Ibid.—The Rev. Simon Mackintosh was presented to the third charge of the parish of Inverness. The United Secession congregation at Forres resolved to give a call to the Rev. Adam Lind Simpson, as colleague and successor to their pastor, Rev. Mr Stark.

February 9.—Meetings were held by the Presbytery of Inverness for the purpose of moderating in a call to the Rev. John Clark, Grantown, as minister of the united parish of Daviot and Dunlichity. The heritors and one communicant were in favour of the call, but six communicants objected. Testimonies



in favour of Mr Clark were given by the Rev. Mr Clark, Inverness, and Rev. Mr Maclauchlan, Moy. The parish had long been vacant. Ibid.—A paper describing improvements made at Corrybrough, in the parish of Moy, by the proprietor, Mr G. Campbell Smith, was read at a meeting of the Highland Society. The ground consisted of 54 acres, and after being cleared, fenced, drained, and top-dressed with lime and bones, its value had been raised from £24 to £61 a year.

February 16.—Sir Robert Peel introduced a new sliding scale of corn duties. The anti-corn law agitation was in progress.

Ibid.—A memoir of the late Chisholm, M.P. for Inverness-shire, had just been published, and is noticed at some length. Its author was the Rev. James S. M. Anderson, chaplain in ordinary to the Queen, and perpetual curate of St George's Chapel, Brighton. The Chisholm died at the early age of twenty-eight.

February 23.—“The road over the stone-bridge here is at present undergoing repair, and on Saturday last the workmen threw open the vault built in one of the arches, which was formerly used as a jail, and afterwards as a cell for maniacs. It was truly a ‘double dungeon’ made by ‘wall and wave.’ About a foot below the surface of the road they came upon a small iron door, from which a flight of stone steps led down to the damp and miserable chamber. An iron grating or air-hole lighted the place, which was found to be about twelve feet long, nine feet wide, and six feet high. There were no indications of a fireplace; a hole on the floor was used for letting down a pitcher for water; and it is scarcely possible to conceive a more wretched or horrid receptacle for human beings. The situation of the captives, with the river rolling below them, and the sound of vehicles passing over the roof of the cell, is strongly calculated to impress the imagination. In winter, when the river was in flood, or during a storm, a sort of wild and fearful sublimity must have been added to the scene. The last inmate of the cell was half-devoured by rats! Thank God we have in some degree improved upon the wisdom of our ancestors.”

March 2.—The Presbytery of Skye resolved to proceed with the call of Mr Angus Martin to



the parish of Duirinish, in Skye, in disregard of the Veto Act. Mr Martin himself wrote that he was quite willing to conform to the Act.

**March 9.**—The Non-Intrusion controversy was now drawing to a climax. On the previous Wednesday the Presbytery of Strathbogie met at Huntly to receive a presentation in favour of the Rev. Mr Duguid to the Church and parish of Glass. The occasion passed off quietly, but in case of disturbance Sir James Graham had given orders for a detachment of military to be sent from Aberdeen to Huntly. "Fifty men of the 71st Regiment accordingly marched to the spot, and will remain in the district of Strathbogie for two months."

**Ibid.**—An outlaw named Macphee, living in Glenquoich, pastured sixty goats on grass lands rented by Mr Cameron, Corrychoillie. As no remonstrances had any effect, a party of Mr Cameron's shepherds, fourteen or fifteen in number, swept off the whole flock in payment of grass mail. Macphee was absent, but his wife pursued the shepherds with a gun and fired several shots at the party. "They fled precipitately before the modern Helen Macgregor, but managed to drive the goats all before them, and secured them within the ancient and venerable Castle of Inverlochy—which was certainly used in its day for nobler purposes—till they can be sold in due course of law." Mr Cameron afterwards paid Macphee for the goats.

**Ibid.**—The Rev. Simon Mackintosh was ordained to the third charge of the parish of Inverness. He had been previously presented to Daviot, but had withdrawn. The new presentee to Daviot, Mr Clark, was also objected to by six communicants, out of seven, as before stated.

**Ibid.**—The death is announced of Mr William Grant, the oldest member of a firm of manufactures in Manchester, understood to be one of the "Cheeryble Brothers," represented by Dickens in *Nicholas Nickleby*. Mr Grant was a native of Elchies, in Morayshire, and died in his 73rd year.

**March 16.**—The first accounts are to hand of the disaster to British troops in Afghanistan, and the beginning of the terrible march through the passes of the Khoord Cabul. Particulars follow in subsequent issues.



Ibid.—There is an account of Sir Robert Peel's famous Budget establishing the Income-tax and reducing duties on 750 articles of consumption.

Ibid.—Sir Edward Parry, who had been deputed by the Treasury to report on the Caledonian Canal, gave a decided opinion in favour of improving and completing the work, as recommended by Mr Walker, engineer.

Ibid.—The United Associate Presbytery ordained the Rev. Alexander Munro to the charge of Queen Street Congregation, Inverness.

March 25.—The death is announced of Mr Wm. Young, of Burghead, one of the most spirited improvers in the North. "For upwards of forty years Mr Young has been engaged in various public improvements. The great mound across the firth near Golspie was mainly accomplished by his exertions; he constructed the harbour at Burghead, reclaimed waste land in Morayshire, and was otherwise unceasingly engaged in improving the aspect and resources of the country." In a subsequent issue there is a biographical sketch of Mr Young.

March 30.—Mr Robert S. Taylor, sheriff-clerk of Sutherland, was appointed Sheriff-Substitute of the island of Lewis. Mr Roderick Hay was appointed agent for the North of Scotland Bank at Invergordon, and Rev. Mr Glass, parochial schoolmaster in Dingwall, succeeded him as distributor of stamps, &c., in the latter town.

April 6.—The Non-Intrusion party in the Church were preparing for separation from the State. A circular had been issued bearing the name of Dr Candlish with a sketch of the proposed Sustentation Fund, and of the general character of the ecclesiastical organisation which ultimately became the Free Church. The stipend aimed at was £200, or at the lowest £150.

Ibid.—Trouble had arisen on the property of Glencalvie, part of the estate of Kindeace, in Ross-shire. On the urlar, as it was called, there were four joint tenants, who had fourteen sub-tenants and cottars, making up a population of 88 persons. The four tenants alone were recognised by the landlord. None of the rent was in arrear. The Commissioners on the estate had recently advertised the farm to let, informing the tenants that they



had determined to continue them in possession, but meant to demand a "full rent" and security. Meantime they had sent a sheriff officer to warn them out. This officer was met on 25th March at the confines of the farm by a band of men and women who took the papers from him and burned them. Another effort was made to serve the summonses on the 28th, the sheriff-substitute and fiscal going in advance to warn the people of the illegality of resistance. Their words, however, were futile, and a "small force" which accompanied was met by a large number of the excited people, and the papers were again destroyed. The editor in commenting on the proceedings, while deprecating violation of the law, expresses regret at the process of removal, and advises landlords and factors "instead of confining their attention to the rents alone, and putting a few pounds of augmentation in the scale, against the comfort of scores of their fellow-creatures," to "visit them frequently and make themselves acquainted with their characters and concerns." If this were done he thought such difficulties would be avoided.

*Ibid.*—At this time the Inverness Town Council had excited discussions on a proposal to sell the town lands in order to pay debt. On the previous Saturday there was a procession of some of the trades bearing placards with the mottoes "No Sale" and "We will defend our rights." Various public meetings had also disapproved of the selling scheme. The Town Council held a meeting, at which the majority approved of the sale.

*Ibid.*—A ploughing match was held at Invergarry, "the first ever held in the district." It took place under the auspices of the Glen-garry Farming Society, an association promoted by Mr Scott, factor for Lord Ward.

April 23.—The northern farmers and residents in the islands protested against Sir Robert Peel's financial scheme, which lowered duties on corn and on live stock. A correspondent in the *Lews* said it would also be detrimental to the cod and ling fishing. The proposed tariff had "struck all classes in the island with dismay." The writer said that the average earnings of each fisherman for eight months in the year were only £5, and the rest of the time was given to their crofts.



Ibid.—In consequence of the opposition offered to the sale of the town lands, the Council agreed to a proposal by Mr Joseph Mitchell for the appointment of a committee to consider some other plan to relieve the town of its difficulties.

Ibid.—A gold chain was presented to Provost Robert Urquhart, Forbes, to be worn by himself and his successors in office.

April 20.—There was a great demonstration at Fort-William by small tenants and cottars against an attempt to enforce the payment of assessment for county roads. Bands from various districts, headed by pipers, marched into the town to the number of five hundred. The legal case broke down on a technical point, and the gathering dispersed in a happy temper.

April 27.—A letter from Australia gives some account of sheep farming there and the condition of emigrants. Sheep had suffered from catarrh and were low in price. "Among the gossip about Highland settlers the writer mentions one gentleman who had tried New Zealand but preferred Australia. He had been surprised at meeting Glengarry at an inn. The chief was fully armed, and his countryman mistook him for a bushranger. An explanation followed: and they spent the night together discussing 'Lochaber no more.' Glengarry had just bought 100 cows at £10 each."

Ibid.—A suggestion had been thrown out to cut down the trees in the islands to liquidate the burgh debt. It was not a serious proposal, but the mere mention of it excited indignation. The bridge on the west side of the Islands had fallen at this time.

Ibid.—The Synod of Ross, on the motion of the Rev. Mr Carment, Rosskeen, by a large majority adopted an overture in favour of the abolition of patronage.

Ibid.—The death is recorded of a respected townsman, Colonel Nicolson, of the 27th or Enniskillen Infantry. It is stated that his grandfather was the first Presbyterian minister of the parish of Kiltarlity.

May 4.—The funeral of Mr Fraser of Foyers, an aged proprietor, and the last of his house, is described. His remains were interred on a rocky promintory on the side of Loch-Ness, about half-a-mile from Foyers House. There



was an attendance of about a thousand of the neighbouring gentry and people. The editor notes that he did not observe a single person in the Highland dress, although there was more than an ordinary proportion of women present in white caps and parti-coloured dresses. The deceased had been very kindly and hospitable. "The domestics have all grown grey in his service, and some of them are of the second and third generation about the family. One of his shepherds has been with him for forty, another for fifty years. His butler has been in his house since his boyhood, the housekeeper since she was a girl, and the cook, we believe, is not short of ninety years of age." The deceased was aged 83. He had only one child, a daughter, married to Captain Fraser of Balnain, but she died without issue. Mackenzie mentions in his history of the Frasers that Foyers had involved his estate by becoming security for other persons. He left the life-rent to his son-in-law, and the perpetuity to his nephew, Mr J. M. Grant of Glenmoriston. The estate, however, had to be sold, but all the debts were paid.

*Ibid.*—At a meeting of the Synod of Moray, in Elgin, an overture was carried in favour of the abolition of patronage. The Synod had the Daviot case before it, and the agent for the presentee, Mr Wm. Clark, gave an interesting history of the division which had taken place in the parish. The previous minister, Rev. James Macphail, had been incumbent for about thirty-seven years, his death having occurred in July 1839. In the early part of his ministry he was very popular. A catechist, however, named Peter Stewart was appointed, who obtained a strong hold of the people, and under his direction many separated themselves not only from Mr Macphail, but from other pious ministers of the Church. In 1817 the case was brought before the Presbytery, and Mr Stewart was deprived of the office of catechist, but this only widened the breach. He continued to carry on his ministrations, supported by voluntary contributions, until his death in 1840. The people wanted the Rev. Archibald Cook, Inverness, to be appointed as successor to Rev. Mr Macphail, but the Crown declined to make the presentation. In consequence, six of the ten



communicants opposed the presentation to the Rev. Simon Mackintosh, who withdrew, and was afterwards appointed to the third charge of Inverness. The next presentation was in favour of the Rev. Mr Clark, and though the heritors and a large number of the parishioners were in his favour, the opposition of the six and of those who adhered to them, was still maintained. For three years the parish had been without a minister. The case came before the Synod on an appeal by Rev. Mr Clark, Inverness, but though his intention was regarded as commendable, his proposals were considered inadmissible, and the appeal was dismissed.

**Ibid.**—The Town Council approved of the erection of a new wall at the base of the Castle Hill, as proposed by Mr Burn, architect.

**May 11.**—This issue contains the report of the Parliamentary Committee recommending that the improvements proposed by Mr Walker and Sir W. E. Parry on the Caledonian Canal should be carried out.

**May 18.**—The editor of the "Courier" was in London, and gave an account of the Literary Fund dinner (at which Prince Albert presided) and of his own "Ramble Southwards."

**Ibid.**—The Daviot case was before the Presbytery of Inverness, which heard witnesses on behalf of the presentee, and then resolved to report the case to the General Assembly.

**May 25.**—The Rev. Donald Macdonald (afterwards Dr Macdonald) was ordained as assistant and successor to the Rev. Dr Rose, Inverness. Delay had taken place on account of some objections that had been offered to Mr Macdonald as a preacher in Gaelic, but in the end these were departed from. The same issue contains a report of the proceedings of the General Assembly in connection with the Strathbogie interdict, and another report of a Church defence meeting at Auldearn, addressed by the Rev. Mr Macrae, Knockbain, and the Rev. Mr Barclay, minister of the parish.

**June 1.**—The proceedings of the General Assembly are reported at length. The editor says—"It is now pretty clear that if the Government hope to settle the existing differences it must be by conceding all to the Non-Intrusionists." The Assembly appointed a committee to inquire into the Daviot case.



*Ibid.*—"A number of workmen are at present engaged in improving the banks of our river, and in widening the road below the Castle Hill. Part of the hill had been cut away, and we observe precautions have been taken to prevent a slip of the earth, as the soil is light and sandy."

*Ibid.*—A short article on "London at Day-Break" over the initials A.B.R., obviously Angus Bethune Reach.

June 8.—An attempt to shoot the Queen by a young man named Francis aroused universal indignation.

*Ibid.*—There is a memoir of Colonel Agnew, a distinguished officer, who succeeded the late Colonel Baillie of Leys in the Directorate of the East India Company. He was a brother-in-law of Mr John Fraser, one of the candidates for the representation of the Inverness Burghs in 1840.

*Ibid.*—"There is now fitted up, and in daily operation, in the cupola and upper chamber of the Inverness Observatory, Mr Ostler's ingenious apparatus for measuring the direction and velocity of the wind and the amount of rain."

June 15.—Mrs Chisholm, wife of Captain Archibald Chisholm, of the Madras Army, had begun her work for female emigrants, and was busy establishing a home in Sydney, New South Wales.—A party of cottars had left Strathbraan, Ross-shire, for Canada, with assistance given by the Glasgow Emigration Society and local friends, including the proprietor, Sir Colin Mackenzie of Kilcoy.

*Ibid.*—An attempt at eviction at Lochshell, parish of Lochs, was resisted by a party of women, who drove off the officers. The place had been taken as a sheep farm. From three to four hundred people resided on it.

June 22.—There is a notice of the "Vestiarium Scoticum," published by John Sobieski Stuart. The illustrated version was issued at the price of ten guineas. A townsman had secured a copy and was "letting it out" to readers.

*Ibid.*—A report is given on the state of the Ness Islands, which called for improvement. "The first separate notice of these islands in recent times which the committee have observed in the Council records is of date the 20th June 1823, when the Board at that time



resolved in future 'to set the grass in the Island annually, along with the other branches of the Common Good.' Previous to this the Island had been planted, and the grass was not cut or pastured, most probably for fear of injury to the young trees." The improvements begun in 1828 cost between £900 and £1000, which was raised by subscription, and since then the Council had incurred some expenditure in executing repairs.

July 6.—It was agreed to purchase ground off Academy Street for markets at the price of £300.

July 13.—A vessel sailed from Gairloch, in Ross-shire, with 215 passengers, voluntary emigrants from Gairloch and Torridon, and a few from Skye. They were bound, in good spirits, for Canada.

July 20.—The Wool Market showed a heavy decline in prices. "In sheep there was not one-half of the usual business transacted, and in wool scarcely a fourth. In lambs a good many sales took place at a reduction from last year's prices of from ninepence to two shillings each. In ewes very little was done, particularly of the blackfaced breed. In wedders the fall was from 2s 6d to 5s each. Cheviot wool sold generally at from 12s 6d to 14s per stone; last year the prices of the same flocks were from 15s to 16s 6d." At the ordinary, Mr Bowie, W.S., spoke of a large scheme of emigration that was under consideration to relieve destitution in the Highlands. He said that no less than £100,000 had been subscribed towards relief in 1837, and that the Government had afterwards spent £170,000 in promoting emigration. An association had now been formed under the name of "The Scottish and British American Association," which had already acquired extensive properties in North America.

August 3.—A Parliamentary return showed that no fewer than thirty-nine Church cases were pending in the Court of Session.

August 17.—The House of Lords had confirmed the judgment of the Court of Session, finding the majority of the Presbytery of Auchterarder liable in damages to the Earl of Kin-noul, the patron, and to Mr Young, the presentee to the parish of Auchterarder.

Ibid.—There were great disturbances in the manufacturing districts of England, having



their origin in a reduction of wages in the cotton trade. Riots occurred on a large scale, especially in Lancashire, where 100,000 operatives struck work. The Chartists were busy inflaming the situation. Excitement spread to the industrial and mining districts in Scotland.

August 24.—“The estate of Bunchrew in this county has been purchased by our townsman, John Fraser, Esq., late of Cromarty House. The price was £13,650. Bunchrew was the birthplace of the celebrated Duncan Forbes of Culloden, and his favourite retirement during the summer months, when he was Lord-President of the Court of Session. The trees which he planted now form a fine flourishing wood adjoining the house.”

August 31.—At this time a lunatic was confined in the Northern Infirmary. The house surgeon wrote to the Town Council demanding her removal “in accordance with the rules of the institution, which prohibited incurables from being retained.” It appeared that there was no asylum which would receive the poor woman, except Morningside, near Edinburgh. The Town Council repudiated obligation, but appear to have been willing to continue paying a contribution for her maintenance in the Infirmary.

Ibid.—There is a long notice of a pamphlet on the subject of emigration from the Western Isles by Mr William Grierson Yorstoun. The writer was opposed to emigration, advocating improved culture and a less precarious tenure. He admits the difficulties of landlords, saying that the Duke of Argyll, besides granting reductions of £500 from the rental of Tiree, amounting in all to £3000, discharged arrears to the extent of £1500. The editor gives unqualified censure to the manner in which whole districts had been hastily cleared and turned into sheep walks, but he does not think that emigration can be avoided.

Ibid.—“A malt still in active operation was discovered lately by Mr Douglas, excise officer, Beauly, on a spot above Kilmorack. This is the first occurrence of the kind for two years. Smuggling as a trade is wholly done away with in the Highlands.”

September 7.—The first visit of Queen Victoria to Scotland excited great interest. Her Majesty landed so early at Granton for Edin-



burgh that the Provost and Magistrates were "caught napping." The Queen afterwards proceeded to Dalkeith Palace, and to Taymouth Castle, Perthshire.

September 14.—A Highland gathering was held in Glengarry under the auspices of Lord Ward, who was "splendidly attired in Highland costume." The assemblage, it is said, numbered 2000.

Ibid.—A correspondent sends an interesting account of a trip by way of Loch-Maree and Poolewe to the island of Lewis.

September 28.—Among the curiosities found in the Town House of Inverness during recent repairs were several old guns, one of which bore the date 1666. It appeared to be of Spanish manufacture.

October 5.—The visit of two photographers to Inverness is recorded, and an account is given of "this new and most extraordinary art."

October 12.—The Northern Meeting was held on the previous week, and is described as particularly well attended. Games and races were held at the Longman.

Ibid.—Lady Mary Ross of Balnagown died at Bonnington, in Lanarkshire, on the 28th ult., and her remains were interred in the Abbey Church of Fearn on the 10th inst. The deceased lady was a daughter of the Duke of Leinster, and survived her husband twenty-eight years.

October 19.—The scheme for selling the town's lands was again brought forward, and a motion approving of the proposal was carried by a majority of the Council.

Ibid.—A paragraph describes a fight between sheep dogs and a wild cat near Corryarrick. The dogs accompanied a flock of sheep on their way from Caithness. In the fight the dogs were getting lacerated when the shepherds interfered with staves, plaids, and stones, and the cat was killed. Being measured, the cat was found to be three feet in length from the snout to the tip of the tail, and two feet thick.

October 26.—The Mackintosh of Mackintosh was married on the 18th inst. to Miss Charlotte Macleod of Dalvey. Rejoicings were held at Inverness, Daviot, Moy, and Lochaber.

Ibid.—Official reports on the Northern prisons state that Inverness prison has been much improved, but others were still awaiting com-



mencement. Of Dingwall we read—"The prison is warmed by open fires, and as the floors and ceilings are of wood there must always be a danger of the building taking fire; and this danger is increased by the facility which exists for communicating with people on the outside, and getting lights into the prison during the night. The prisoners have themselves to purchase the fuel used." A new prison, however, was about to be built. There had been no prisoner in Tain for six weeks before the reporter's visit, and there had been few for some time previous. This was evidently fortunate on more grounds than one. "It is recommended," says the reporter, Mr Frederic Hill, "that as a temporary arrangement the prisoners be permitted to take exercise on the bartizan at the top of the prison, and that, until a new prison be built, the prisoners be supplied with guernsey frocks and flannel drawers in winter, and when from the state of the wind it is not possible to light fires in the present rooms, they be allowed a hot-water bottle each."

November 2.—The lands of Ardmeanach, lately belonging to the town of Fortrose, were sold to General Sir Hugh Fraser of Braelangwell for £955.

November 9.—At a meeting of Inverness Town Council three Magistrates, Bailies Macandrew, Cameron, and Davidson, submitted a protest against any bailies being elected in their stead previous to the expiry of their several periods yet to run as councillors. A majority of the Council, however, refused to entertain this protest, and elected new bailies. By the casting vote of the Provost the Council resolved to go on with a local bill relating to the town's affairs.—In Fortrose Mr George Gillanders was elected Provost.

Ibid.—There is an interesting sketch of the career of Allan Cunningham, who died on October 29.

November 16.—At a meeting of the Commissioners of Supply of the county of Inverness a report was submitted and adopted, approving of the administration by the local engineer of the Parliamentary roads and bridges.

November 23.—At a meeting of Commission of General Assembly a report was submitted on the state of the parish of Daviot, six communicants out of ten having vetoed the presenta-



tion to Mr Clark, as they had previously vetoed a presentation to Mr Mackintosh. The report admitted that religious irregularities existed in the parish, arising at first from the ministrations among them of a catechist, Peter Stewart; that though he was now dead the same spirit still continued; that there was an unwillingness to attend church, but that those who did not attend were the flower of the parish; and that the six communicants had never withdrawn themselves from ordinances, although they had occasionally attended the services of Mr Stewart. The Commission almost unanimously resolved to reject the presentee, in terms of the Veto Act, and to intimate the same to the patrons.—The famous Convocation of Non-Intrusion clergy, called as a preparation for the Disruption, was held at this time, but the proceedings were private.

*Ibid.*—The electors of the First Ward in Inverness held a meeting to discuss the conduct of two of their representatives in voting for the "local bill." The meeting was of a stormy character, and ultimately broke up in confusion.

November 30.—The concluding meeting of the Convocation of Non-Intrusion clergy was held in public, and a speech by Dr Candlish is reported. The proceedings of the Convocation extended over seven days, and the resolutions they arrived at were published. The attendance numbered 478 ministers, including 150 from parliamentary or unendowed charges. One set of resolutions was signed by 427, another which pointed to separation from the State, by 352.

*Ibid.*—A great many cases of incendiarism occurred at this time in England. "The cases are not confined to any particular place. In various counties in England factories, farmsteadings, and corn-yards have been set on fire, and some of them altogether destroyed." The Chartist movement was in active operation, and addresses were delivered by female Chartists.

*Ibid.*—The Martinmas market in Inverness is reported to be fully as large as in former years. Provost Nicol had succeeded in getting the carts arranged in New Street instead of in High Street. The number on the second day of the market reached a hundred



and eighty, filled with butter, cheese, and vegetables.

December 7.—Sir Francis Mackenzie of Gairloch was present at a meeting of an agricultural society in Essex, and suggested the establishment of model and experimental farms.

*Ibid.*—At a meeting of Town Council, Provost Nicol intimated that he had been served with a summons of declarator and reduction in connection with the election of bailies. A motion was made for the suspension of standing orders to discuss another subject, but the Provost refused to entertain it, and left the meeting along with some of his supporters. Other members remained, reconstituted the meeting, and passed various motions. One of these rescinded the resolution for the sale of the town lands.

December 14.—A column is given to the "Reminiscences of a Clachnacuddin Nonagenarian" just published. The little volume is still well-known and popular. The issue also contains a report of a sermon delivered by the Rev. Mr Macrae, Knockbain, on the proceedings at the Convocation. Mr Macrae was an eloquent member of the Non-Intrusion party.

*Ibid.*—"In our obituary this week will be found a notice of the death of James Grant, Esq. of Bught, one of the oldest and most respectable of our townsmen, whose name had long been familiar to the northern public. Mr Grant was a native of Inverness, and he held the offices of Justice of Peace and Commissary Clerk for nearly half-a-century. He was factor and law agent to the Earl of Moray and the Earl of Seafield, besides being confidential agent to the late Charles Grant, M.P. (father of Lord Glenelg), Mr Baillie of Dochfour, and other proprietors. In 1804 he was elected Provost of the burgh, and he continued to be the most influential party in all municipal affairs up to the passing of the Reform Bill. He was also the principal partner for nearly forty years in the manufacturing establishment at the Citadel. In private life Mr Grant was agreeable and facetious—of polished manners and exemplary in the discharge of his social and relative duties." The Provost and Magistrates formed part of the large procession at the funeral. Mr Grant was 74 years of age.



*Ibid.*—The death is recorded of Ensign Alexander Rose, of the Bengal Native Infantry, son of Major-General Sir John Rose of Holme. He was killed, the last of several officers, in a desperate struggle near Charekar, in Kohistan. The Ghoorka soldiers carried his body several miles, but were then compelled to abandon it. They cried like children when relating the boy's fate (he was only in his twenty-second year). "They said 'he was no more than a boy, but he was surely a lion's whelp—always for the steel and getting to work hand to hand.'" His death occurred in November 1841, and authentic news had only now reached his relatives.

*Ibid.*—Ten years previously a young woman who had fled from Fort-William with her infant to escape the cholera took with her the seeds of the disease, and both died in the family cottage in the Braes of Lochaber. They were hastily interred not far from the house. When the child's grandmother died in the winter of 1842, the grave was opened in order that the remains of mother and child might be transferred to the church-yard. "Strange to say, after the inhumation of ten years, they were found not only entire, but perfectly firm, though black, as if they had lived and died under the burning sun of Ethiopia instead of our northern clime." The unsolved question was whether this was due to the disease or to the nature of the soil.

December 28.—A column of notes on Easter Ross is devoted to Tarbat House and grounds, and to the great improvements which Mr Rose Ross of Cromarty had made on his estate around Calrossie. Mr Ross is described as "undoubtedly the greatest rural improver of Ross-shire," and there is a description of his beech and thorn hedges, his plantations, tile-works, and tile draining. The hedges, it is said, extended altogether to about forty miles.



## No. II.

In Scotland 1843 is memorable as the year of the Disruption, which has had so much effect on the ecclesiastical and religious life of the country, especially of the Highlands. In other respects also the year was marked by excitement and agitation. On 21st January, Mr Drummond, private secretary to Sir Robert Peel, was shot by a man named Macnaughten, who mistook him for Peel. The disorders in Ireland assumed unusual violence. There was a vehement revival of the agitation for the repeal of the Union and a sudden rise of the repeal rent from £500 to £3000 a-week. Daniel D'Connell, the popular Irish leader, and in the eyes of Britain "the great beggar-man," addressed monster meetings, and was ultimately prosecuted on a charge of high treason. He was convicted of sedition, but the judgment broke down on appeal to the House of Lords.

Distress increased in the United Kingdom owing to a series of deficient harvests and the operation of the Corn Laws. In the House of Commons Lord Howick moved for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the prevailing distress. The discussion turned on the Corn Laws, and Sir Jas. Graham and Mr Gladstone admitted the soundness of the principles of free trade, but pleaded for the continuance of protection to agriculture on the ground of the interests which had grown up under it. The motion for inquiry was defeated by a majority of 115 (306 to 191). Mr Villiers made himself conspicuous by advocating the entire repeal of the Corn Laws.

The Tractarian movement in England had been going on for some time. In 1843 Dr Pusey was suspended for two years from preaching before the University of Oxford, on account of his views on the Eucharist.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1843.

January 4.—"We understand that a mail curricule will start immediately, for the first time, in Skye, under the auspices of Macleod of Macleod. It commences to run on Thursday next from Kyleakin to Dunvegan, a dis-



tance of about fifty miles; and if a vehicle was put on between Strome Ferry and the ferry of Kyleakin, travellers would have a public conveyance the whole way from Dingwall to Dunvegan."

Ibid.—Three elders, out of six, elected in the parish of Kiltearn, Ross-shire, were objected to as being unmarried. The objection was given effect to, and they were not ordained. The same issue states that the Rev. Mr Macdonald, Ferintosh, delivered addresses in Gaelic and English on the proceedings of the Convocation and the position of the Church, his text being from the words, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

January 11.—A meeting was held in the East Church, Inverness (Rev. Mr Sutherland, minister), to give an opportunity to those who approved of the proceedings of the Convocation to sign a document to that effect. Rev. Mr Topp, of Elgin, and Rev. Mr Stewart, of Cromarty, addressed the meeting and thereafter a number of signatures were appended. Meetings of a similar kind were afterwards held in other northern towns.

January 18.—An extract from the "Madras Gazette" conveys intelligence of the death of Mr Hugh Fraser, assistant to the Commissioner of the district, from wounds received in a skirmish with the Ghouds. Mr Fraser was a son of the late Dr Fraser of Balnain, and son-in-law of Mr Fraser of Culduthel.

Ibid.—Anti-corn law demonstrations were held at Edinburgh and Glasgow, at which Mr Cobden was present. Mr Bright was one of the deputation at Edinburgh, and is described as "a member of the Society of Friends, who had for some time devoted his energies to the propagation of free trade principles."

Ibid.—A vessel, the Linnet, of Sunderland, was wrecked near Balintore, and seven lives were lost.

January 25.—The Court of Session decided in the Stewarton case that chapel ministers had no right to sit in church courts. This decision was another important incident in the Non-Intrusion controversy.

January 25 and February 1.—These issues give an account of the assassination of Mr Drummond, private secretary to Sir Robert Peel, which created great excitement at the time.



February 1.—The death is announced of Mr Lewis Hoyes, merchant in the island of Grenada and Speaker of the House of Assembly, in his 58th year. Mr Hoyes was a native of Forres, but had been a resident of Grenada for about thirty-four years.

Ibid.—There is a report of a case described as “Advocation of Brieves: Lord Lovat against the Rev. Alexander Garden Fraser, some time of New York.” It came on for trial in Edinburgh before Lord Cunninghame and a jury. “The allegation of Mr Fraser was that he is the grandson of John Fraser, who died in Greenock in the year 1765, and that this John Fraser was the younger brother of Simon, the attainted Lord Lovat. He therefore maintained that he was a nearer relative of the Lovat family than the present Lord Lovat. He made no appearance in the service. Lord Lovat put in a great mass of evidence in support of his own pedigree and to disprove the statements of Mr Fraser. These documents established that this John Fraser could not have been the brother of Simon, Lord Lovat; for the grandfather of the claimant was a weaver in the town of Lancaster, and according to the claim, died and was buried in Greenock in 1765, whereas Lord Lovat’s brother died at Inverness in 1716, and was buried at Kirkhill. Direct testimony of the death and burial of the real John Fraser was adduced from the charter chests of the Duke of Sutherland, Culloden, and a variety of other sources.” Lord Cunninghame, in his charge to the jury, said that they “had evidence brought before them by Lord Lovat showing most conclusively that John Fraser, the brother of the attainted Lord, died in the year 1716, and not merely proving the date and the manner of his death, but even the very circumstances of his burial.” Accordingly, the jury unanimously, and without hesitation, returned a verdict in favour of Lord Lovat in terms of his claim.

Ibid.—There is a description of an old gun in Castle Grant, richly mounted and bearing the inscription —“Dominvs. Johannes Grant, Miles, Vicecomes de Innernes. M. E. Fecit in Germania. Anno 1434.” The calibre was about six or seven-eighths of an inch, the stock reaching almost to the mouth of the barrel,



and the flat part ornamented with figures on horseback and animals of the chase.

**Ibid.**—The trustees of the First Road District adopted a resolution prohibiting the throwing out of water, ashes, rubbish, or filth of any description on the streets or roads of the burgh. "This practice has prevailed in some parts of the town to a great extent."

**Ibid.**—One paragraph describes how a shepherd named Christopher Mair stocked a small burn near the head of Glencannich with trout. Another describes the conduct of villagers at Hilltown, near Tain, who would not touch the body of a woman found drowned in a well, as they supposed it was a case of suicide, although all the evidence went to show that she had fallen into the water in a fit. "None of them would approach the body. It was proposed to throw a live dog upon it, as the first touch would be unlucky. This was negatived; but as soon as the unfortunate husband took it out of the water they put it into a chest or box, and the same evening carried it some miles to the seashore and buried it deep in the sand." The authorities, however, caused the body to be disinterred, and gave it decent burial in the burying-ground of St Duthus Chapel.

**February 8.**—The country suffered from a severe snowstorm. In some districts the mails had to be carried on horseback.

**Ibid.**—The Hon. George Stuart, while partridge shooting at Alvie on the 24th ult., shot a quail, "which is always a rare bird in Scotland, and particularly so in the depth of winter." A brace of these birds had, however, been killed in the same district in October.

**Ibid.**—It is mentioned that lighthouses are to be erected at Chanonry Point, at Cromarty, and at Lossiemouth.

**Ibid.**—Nelson's monument at Forres had been repaired, and a valuable bust of Lord Nelson placed on a handsome pedestal.

**Ibid.**—The issue contains a report of the proceedings at the Commission of Assembly which preceded the Disruption. Numerous meetings on the Church question are reported in various issues.

**February 15.**—"A large male wild cat was trapped last week by Mr Stewart, game-



keeper to Lord Reidhaven, at Balmacaan. This powerful animal weighed 13 pounds; length, 3 feet; circumference of the body, 16½ inches, and of the head, 12½ inches; height at the shoulder, 16 inches." It is stated that these animals were now seldom found so large as in former years. They were being systematically trapped.

February 22.—Since the municipal election a double set of claimants to the magistracy existed in the burgh of Inverness, and none but the Provost could perform the duties of the office. The old bailies raised an action in the Court of Session to have it declared that they were entitled to remain as bailies, "aye, and until they shall be in the third of the council going out of office." The Lord Ordinary, Cockburn, dismissed the action on the ground that the title of the pursuers was liable to the same objection as they had made against their opponents. Both sets of bailies had been elected in the same way.

March 1.—Sir James Graham (February 23) stated explicitly that it was not the intention of the Government to bring in any bill on the Scottish Church question.

March 8.—Macnaughten, the assassin of Mr Drummond, was found to be insane and consigned to an asylum.

Ibid.—A report by the secretary to the Northern Infirmary pointed out that no insane person could be admitted, even for medical treatment, without a Sheriff's warrant.

Ibid.—The death is announced of Sir James Wemyss Mackenzie of Scatwell, and the succession of his son, James R. Mackenzie.

March 15.—There is a report of the debate in the House of Commons on Mr Fox Maule's motion for inquiry on the Scottish Church question. The motion was defeated by 211 votes to 76.

Ibid.—Mr James Matheson of Achany (afterwards Sir James Matheson of the Lews) was elected Liberal member for the burgh of Ashburton, in Devonshire. Mr Matheson, it is stated, had realised a large fortune in China. "He is the proprietor of the estates of Achany in Sutherland, and Rockfield in Ross-shire, and is known to have been in treaty with the family of Seaforth for the purchase of the Island of Lewis. Never was wealth placed in worthier hands."



**Ibid.**—It is stated that a subscription had been begun for the erection of a new church in Inverness, on Non-Intrusion principles, in which English only was to be preached. About £300 had been subscribed in course of a personal canvass made by Captain Donald Mackintosh, Mr G. Mackay, Convener Mackenzie, Church Street, &c. This was the origin of the Free High Church. Subscriptions to the amount of £400 had also been promised for a Free Church in Elgin.

**March 22.**—A whale forty-six feet in length was captured near Kessock. Both the Kilmuir men and the Craigton men were engaged in the capture, and had a scuffle over the prize. —Two stone cists were found at Cottarton of Dunearn, but the remains had mouldered to dust.

**March 29.**—There is a long communicated article on the appointment of a Poor-Law Commission, and the probability of its resulting in “a fresh pecuniary infliction, casting additional gloom on the prospects both of proprietors and tenants.” It is alleged that the recent changes in the corn-law and tariff had been severely felt in the Highlands and Islands.

**April 5.**—Thomas Gilzean of Bunachton, ex-Provost of Inverness, died on 22nd March in his eighty-seventh year. He was a native of the parish of Urquhart, in Morayshire, the son of a farmer there, and trained for the law. He began business in Elgin, but having been appointed to the office of Comptroller of Customs at the port of Inverness, he came to this town in 1783. In 1785 he was appointed principal Sheriff-Substitute of the county, and some years afterwards was made Distributor of Stamps and Collector of Stamp Duties. He was Provost of Inverness for four years, Chairman and Treasurer of the Royal Academy for many years, leading manager of the Northern Infirmary, and factor on several estates. “These various duties would have overwhelmed almost any other person, but Mr Gilzean had all his time and engagements so finely regulated and disposed that he was an utter stranger to hurry and confusion. He was at his labours generally by five o’clock in the morning, devoted to the investigation of the cases which were to come



before him for judgment—to rigid scrutiny of the truth and to the well-weighed adjustment of conflicting claims.” As age advanced he relinquished his chief offices, resigning that of Sheriff-Substitute in 1828. Mr Gilzean was one of the citizens who met Robert Burns in 1787, when the Provost of the day entertained the poet at a dinner party. He is described as a man of kindliness, good humour and penetration, of a lively and cheerful temperament, and a steady friend. The bulk of his fortune was left to his two grandchildren, the family of Mr Rose Innes of Netherdale, and he bequeathed £300 to the Northern Infirmary.

*Ibid.*—There is a report of the proceedings of the Presbytery of Inverness for the election of representatives to the Assembly, the question being whether quoad sacra ministers should be included in the voting and representation. Rev. Dr Rose tendered a protest against their inclusion, but it was rejected by 8 votes to 7. It is also stated that Colonel Baillie, M.P., recently appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ross-shire, had agreed to grant sites on his properties of Redcastle and Tarradale for Non-Intrusion Churches. “This is almost a solitary instance among the extensive proprietors in the North.” In a subsequent issue letters are given from proprietors declining to consider the question.

*Ibid.*—A paragraph draws attention to the large additions made to plantations on the Seafield estate. The Earl of Seafield continued to carry out the policy of his father, Sir James Grant, who was an enthusiastic planter. Another paragraph states that owing to the low price of grain smuggling was again on the increase in the Highlands.

April 12.—A coin of the Roman Emperor, Vespasian, had recently been found, in a state of excellent preservation, in the neighbourhood of Sweno’s Stone, Forres. It bore the words “Judæa Capta,” and was therefore one of the coins (or medals) struck to commemorate the destruction of Jerusalem. The relic was in the possession of Mr Mackintosh, jun., Burgie.

April 19.—Attention is directed for the second time to a series of dialogues on the Church question issued by the Rev. Mr Clark, of the



West Church, Inverness. "The reverend author, while well-known as an advocate for the reform of real abuses in the Church, is entirely opposed to the proceedings of the late Convocation as calculated to produce results injurious alike to the Church and the country." Hugh Miller made these Dialogues the subject of a satirical article.

April 26.—Dr Nicol had previously sent in his resignation as Provost of Inverness, and as he adhered to his resolution the resignation was now accepted. The proceedings at the Council had for some time been stormy in connection with such questions as a Harbour Bill, a new Post-office, &c. The Provost in his views of business had frequently found himself in a minority. At the meeting reported on this date only nine members attended, but the Town-Clerk ruled that they were qualified and bound to elect a Provost, and their choice fell on Bailie James Sutherland, who was unanimously appointed.

May 3 and 10.—These issues contain long reports of discussions in the Synod of Moray and the Presbytery of Inverness. They also contain paragraphs about "John o' Skye," Sir Walter Scott's piper, who was on a visit to Scott's former factor, William Laidlaw, at Marybank, Ross-shire.

May 17.—The Rev. James Begg and the Rev. Thomas Guthrie addressed a meeting in the East Church on behalf of the Non-Intrusionists. Some of Guthrie's humorous sallies are reported.

May 24.—A great part of this issue is devoted to reports of the Disruption Assembly, and the proceedings in the new Free Church Assembly. The editor was impressed with the amount of the contributions to the Free Church (£223,000), but was doubtful how long the liberality would continue to flow. He perceived, however, that a new era had begun. An advertisement has been cut out of this issue, doubtless innocently enough, by some person who wished to make use of it. In a subsequent issue the following advertisement is quoted as having appeared on May 24th:—"Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The Committee appointed to provide for the erection of a church in Inverness, in which divine service may be conducted ex-



clusively in the English language, beg respectfully to intimate that the Wesleyan Church congregation here have kindly given permission to occupy their chapel in Inglis Street until the new church is erected. The hours of public worship, for the congregation of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, will be eleven o'clock forenoon and two o'clock afternoon on Sabbath first and thereafter.—Inverness, 23rd May 1843. The Rev. Mr Macnab is to preach on Sabbath first." The new body is generally designated "The Free Presbyterian Church" during the first few weeks.

May 31.—The Disruption and its results are still the great topic. On the previous Sunday, as announced in the advertisement, the friends who founded the Free High Church, Inverness, "attended the Methodist Chapel, when Mr Hooley relinquished his pulpit in favour of Mr Macnab, church probationer." The paragraph proceeds to say—"In the afternoon Mr Scott, minister of the Secession congregation (though a decided Voluntary), with brotherly and Christian liberality, preached in the East Church for Mr Sutherland, who is now attending the Convocation at Edinburgh."

Ibid.—An account of the Established Church Assembly says—"On Saturday the settlement of Mr Clark in the parish of Daviot was ordered to be proceeded with according to the laws of the Church."

June 7.—"All the pulpits here on Sunday last were filled as usual by their stated pastors; Mr Sutherland and Mr Cook (though among the seceders) occupying their former churches. The Rev. Mr Macnab officiated in the Wesleyan Chapel. At Kirkhill Mr Fraser preached his farewell sermon; and we understand a site has been obtained on the estate of Achnagairn for a new church to Mr Fraser and his friends. The Rev. Mr Macrae, Knockbain, preached in the open air, as did also Dr Macdonald, Urquhart, who selected the spot used by him on Sacramental occasions, by the side of the burn in the front of the church. The Rev. Mr Noble, Fodderty, performed divine service in the large room of the hospital at Strathpeffer. The Rev. Mr Grant, Pettie, is prevented by severe indisposition from leav-



ing the manse, and divine service was performed in his church by Mr Matheson, jun., Kilmuir, and in the evening by Mr Fraser, Kirkhill." A temporary wooden church had already been erected at Tain.

Ibid.—At a meeting of Dr Bell's trustees an application was made for a piece of ground in Farraline Park, at a feu-duty of £10, for the purpose of erecting a church for the new Free Presbyterian congregation in Inverness. A plan was submitted by Mr Ross, architect. A motion was made to grant the feu and an amendment to postpone the question. The motion was carried by 11 votes to 5.

June 14.—Sir Francis A. Mackenzie, Bart. of Gairloch, died in London on the 2nd inst. in the 45th year of his age. He is described as a Liberal and public-spirited proprietor, warmly devoted to agricultural pursuits, and anxious to benefit the condition of his Highland crofters. "A member of the Temperance Society, he presided at various meetings of this body, and he laboured assiduously to inculcate habits of sobriety among the people, particularly on his own estate. We remember the enthusiasm with which he used to describe a rent-day in Gairloch, where no beverage stronger than coffee was drunk, yet all seemed happy and contented. Such an event never before, perhaps, happened in the Highlands." Sir Francis compiled a volume entitled "Hints for the Use of Highland Tenants and Cottagers," drawn up by himself from personal knowledge and correspondence. Of this he also had a Gaelic translation made. Sir Francis had communicated to the "Courier" numerous contributions on rural subjects and natural history. The remains of Sir Francis were afterwards interred in Beaulieu Priory.

Ibid.—Various communications relate the farewell services of seceding ministers or the beginning of service in temporary erections. The extent of the Disruption in the Highlands was beginning to be realised.

Ibid.—A man named John Joppling died in Strontian from eating hemlock, which he had mistaken for a plant known in the Highlands as "ennish."

June 21.—The proposal to erect a Free Church in Farraline Park was departed from, as the parties had failed to agree about terms.



Ibid.—Mr Edward Ellice, M.P., was continuing to make improvements at Invergarry, planting trees and laying out gardens. He had built a new mansion-house and cottages, and was erecting a church at his own expense.

Ibid.—A new Post-office erected in Inverness was taken over by the Town Council.—Captain G. G. Mackenzie, a native of Nairn, died at Ootacamund on 9th April, after a residence in India of eighteen years.—The Rev. Mr Bisset was elected minister of the Secession Church in Nairn.—Church notes are given from various places, showing the changes going on.

June 28.—“Mr Thomas Maclauchlan, late minister of Moy, preached in a tent on Sabbath last in the wood near the Bridge of Findhorn, on the spot where he has obtained a site for his new church. The service was first in Gaelic, and afterwards in English, and the congregation amounted probably to 700 persons, including many from Strathspey.”

July 5.—The Ross-shire Head Burgh Bill, making Dingwall the head burgh of the county, passed through the Commons. A verbal alteration made in the preamble was objected to by the Speaker, but the House agreed to pass over the objection.

Ibid.—The Rev. John Clark, of Grantown, was settled by the Inverness Presbytery in the parish of Daviot.

Ibid.—Lectures on mesmerism were given in Inverness, and experiments made with boys.

July 12.—The Free English congregation in Inverness, who were worshipping in the Wesleyan Church, had obtained a site between Fraser Street and Church Lane for their new building, and workmen were busy clearing the ground for the foundations. It is stated that the workmen came upon a rude strong vault about four feet below the surface, and that the stone and clay arch seemed entire. The Rev. Mr Beith had charge of the congregation, and was busy organising. The editor, however, states that there was no part of Scotland where the secession was so limited as in Inverness. Dr Rose and Mr Clark continued to minister to large congregations. “But the change of which we of this community are scarcely sensible, except from the knowledge of what is going on around us, has



produced very decided effects and is very strongly felt, in many parts of the neighbouring country, where the majority of the clergy and people have left the Established Church." The fact that the congregations of the East Church and the North Church, who had joined the Free Church, retained possession of their buildings, no doubt prevented excitement in Inverness.

Ibid.—In this and the following issue there are long accounts of a duel with pistols fought at Camden Town between Lieut.-Colonel Fawcett and Lieut. Munro, who were married to two sisters. Colonel Fawcett died from his wound. The unfortunate Lieut. Munro was a native of Ross-shire, the son of a retired officer residing in Tain.

July 19.—The annual wool market was held the previous week under unpromising circumstances. "The general depressed state of manufactures operated against the dealers in wool, trade being both dull and uncertain; while the diminishing consumption in the south, and the bad prospects afforded by the turnip fields, were felt to be equally unfavourable to the disposal of sheep. On the whole, however, the result has proved better than was anticipated. About forty thousand sheep have been sold at a reduction of from two to four shillings each from last year's prices, and several extensive clips of wool have also changed owners at prices presenting a similar decrease in value. The Sutherland stocks were disposed of, but scarcely one of the valuable lots in the island of Skye. The blackfaced stock was very little in demand, and Cheviot ewes were almost equally unsaleable, unless at greatly reduced rates. Ewe stock has got into disrepute, partly because the rage for rearing half-bred, or Leicester crosses, has diminished, and partly because many farmers kept them too long in the north. When prices were high, ewes were bought in great quantities for the purpose of raising lambs; and after being kept a year or two beyond the proper time were sent south and sold, when instead of being productive they soon became weak and died off."

Ibid.—A meeting was held to consider an effort made by the Marquis of Breadalbane to interdict the use of a drove stance on the farm



of Inverouran. The road leading to this stance, it was stated, was the only direct and convenient course for driving sheep and cattle to the trysts and markets in the south. A committee was appointed to report on the subject.

*Ibid.*—The question of sites for Free Churches was becoming urgent. Many proprietors were willing to grant sites, but others refused.

July 26.—On the previous Sunday a boat was caught in a squall off Longman Point and swamped. Four persons were drowned.

*Ibid.*—The Tain Academy had fallen into a depressed state, and for some months had been closed. An appeal was made for support, and it was now resolved to re-open the Academy. Mr David Mackie was appointed rector.

August 2.—An appeal was issued on behalf of the new Free Church in Inverness. At this time it was not intended to levy seat rents but to allocate sittings.

*Ibid.*—Sixteen families, chiefly Roman Catholics, had just left the island of Eigg for America.

August 9.—“A legal assessment has now been imposed in this parish (Inverness), with the acquiescence if not the approval of all parties.” The amount assessed for, after deducting £130 derived from the Kirk-Session, &c., and £50 of a balance in the hands of the voluntary committee, was £1025.

August 16.—On the 8th inst. a new mason lodge, “St Mary’s Caledonian Operative,” was consecrated in Inverness. In the absence of the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. M. Thomson, Master of St John’s, Kilwinning, officiated, accompanied by his office-bearers and a number of other brethren.

*Ibid.*—“On its being known on Tuesday that the bill constituting Dingwall the head burgh of Ross-shire had passed through Parliament, the usual mode of rejoicing was resorted to. A salute of 21 guns was fired at the Canal bridge there.”

August 23.—A fine lot of Highland bulls were imported to Scourie, in Sutherland, by the Duke of Sutherland for the use of his small tenants. Some of them were taken from the best stocks in the county of Sutherland, and some were purchased in Skye.



*Ibid.*—A stage-coach now traversed Glencoe, and a traveller could be carried, by steamer and coach, in one long day from Glasgow to Fort-William. The issue contains a graphic column descriptive of the route.

*Ibid.*—A great storm of thunder and lightning passed over the district the previous Saturday. An old woman at Heathfield was killed, and a pair of oxen near Invergordon. The storm was accompanied by a heavy fall of hail-stones and pieces of ice. All the glass frames of the hothouse at Invergordon Castle and the farmhouse at the Mains were completely destroyed.

*Ibid.*—The Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel was at this time in the Highlands, and preached to large congregations in the High Church, Inverness. He also preached in the house of his relative, Mr Baillie of Dochfour.

*Ibid.*—The foundation-stone of the new Free Church was laid at Dornoch. It may be mentioned that in various issues paragraphs appear announcing vacancies or calls in connection with the Disruption, and recording the activity of ministers of the Free Church.

August 30.—There is a notice of a book on "Life in the Bush," written by Mr John Hood, Stoneridge, Berwickshire, who had made a voyage to New South Wales in an emigrant ship, and resided some months in Sydney and the bush.—A meeting was held in Inverness for the purpose of establishing a steamship company to trade between Inverness, London, Leith, and Glasgow.—The foundation-stone of the new Free Church at Tain was laid.

September 6.—Tain Royal Academy was reopened, and the new rector and his colleagues installed in office.

September 13.—"The workmen now employed in taking down the old house in Church Street, which has long been a special object of interest to visitors, from the circumstance of Prince Charles having slept there the last night he was in the Highland capital, and it being the same mansion that received the Duke of Cumberland after the eventful battle of Culloden, have come upon two muskets, evidently of an old date, concealed in the north wall, secreted there most likely to prevent them from falling into the hands of the



redcoats. In proceeding further in their process of demolition, they also found a jewelled ring buried under a large stone. A knife and fork, with ivory handles, as carefully laid out of the grasp of the southern soldiers, were discovered in another part of the building." In 1746 the house was occupied by the Dowager Lady Mackintosh, who used to say—"I've had two kings' bairns living with me in my time, and to tell you the truth I wish I may never have another."

Ibid.—"Deer-stalking continues a favourite field sport. Deer are numerous this season, and many a noble head of horns has rewarded the unwearied sportsman. Those recently killed have their heads clear of velvet, which has remained very late." The summer was very hot.

Ibid.—An obituary notice from Pictou, Nova Scotia, states that James Monroe died there on 8th August, aged 72, son of the late James Monroe, minister of Cromarty. "Twenty-three years ago he emigrated to Pictou, where his integrity and many amiable qualities made him respected and esteemed by all who were acquainted with him."

September 20.—The Rev. Simon Mackintosh, minister of the third charge, Inverness, preached his farewell sermon before removing to the East Church, Aberdeen. On his retirement a question arose between the kirk-session and the Town Council as to the application of seat rents.

Ibid.—A joint committee of Inverness Town Council and citizens was appointed to procure specifications and estimates for erecting new bridges at the islands, with porter-lodges at the extremities.

Ibid.—Mr Macinnes, artist, Inverness, presented the Town Council with a copy of the portrait of Duncan Forbes, first laird of Culloden, and great-grandfather of the Lord President. It is stated that he purchased the barony of Culloden from Mackintosh of Mackintosh in 1625, and was member of Parliament and Provost of the town of Inverness. He died in 1654, aged 82. Thanks are expressed to Mr Macinnes for his excellent copy, and to Mr Forbes of Culloden "for permitting the curious and valuable original to be copied."

Ibid.—On the 29th ult. a party of sheriff-officers



were deforced at Balcladdich, in Assynt, while attempting to carry through a warrant of ejection against John Macleod, tenant there. About fifty men and women drove the officers away. The Sheriff of Sutherland soon afterwards went to the district with a force of thirty special constables, and apprehended the chief parties. It is expressly stated that the case was "wholly unconnected with the Church agitation or general politics."

*Ibid.*—An account is given of the reclamation of waste land on the estate of Ballindalloch, within two miles of the mansion-house.—A correspondent describes the gardens of Holme House, in the valley of the Nairn. He says he remembers when the banks of the stream were but barely fringed with young plantations, "broom, juniper, and alder bushes being their natural covering;" and now there were beautiful woods, "an uninterrupted mass of foliage," at Cawdor, Kilravock, Holme, and Cantray.

September 27.—Mr Swanson, the Free Church minister of the Small Isles, had entered on possession of a floating manse. He writes to a friend under date 11th September—"You will see that I am writing from my floating manse, in which I find myself very comfortable. My cabin is about 12 feet by 6 in length and breadth, and nearly 6 feet high. It contains four beds and is well lighted. We have not yet tested the vessel's power in a storm, but we shall no doubt have an opportunity ere long of doing so."

*Ibid.*—There are various items of Church interest. The people of Rosskeen, Ross-shire, resisted the Presbytery of Tain when they went to induct the new parish minister, and the ceremony had to be conducted at Lower Kincaig. Other cases of induction passed off without incident. The Rev. John Fraser was settled as Free Church minister of Kiltarlity. Some persons at Tongue, in Sutherland, cut off a portion of the bell-rope of the church, and filled up the keyholes. At Farr the tongue of the bell was removed and the church otherwise opprobriously treated. The Duke of Sutherland had refused sites for Free Churches.

*Ibid.*—The freedom of Tain was conferred on Mr James Matheson of Achany, M.P. Mr



Matheson had been very liberal to the Academy.

*Ibid.*—The foundation of the new Court-House and jail at Dingwall was laid with masonic honours by Sir Colin Mackenzie of Kilcoy, Provincial Grand Master, in presence of the Lord-Lieutenant, the Convener, the Provost and Magistrates, and most of the proprietors of the western district of Ross-shire.

October 4.—The death is announced of Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth, which took place at Southampton. He had just completed his fifty-ninth year. The deceased was the eldest son of Admiral the Hon. Keith Stewart, brother of the seventh Earl of Galloway. He married in 1817 the Hon. Mary Mackenzie, eldest daughter of the last Lord Seaforth, and widow of Sir Samuel Hood, assuming by sign manual the name of Mackenzie on his marriage. Seaforth represented Ross and Cromarty in Parliament from 1831 until 1837, and was afterwards Governor of Ceylon and High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands. "Mr Stewart Mackenzie was well known as a firm and consistent Whig. He was of active habits, a ready and fluent speaker, and sincerely anxious to promote the cause of education."

*Ibid.*—There is an account of serious disturbances at Logie and Resolis in Ross-shire (the latter in the Black Isle), arising from the introduction of new ministers to these parishes. Crowds surrounded the churches and prevented entrance by a free use of sticks and stones. At Resolis a woman was captured and taken to Cromarty jail, but the mob broke open the doors and released her. The Rev. Mr Stewart remonstrated with the people, but without avail. The Ross-shire authorities applied to the Inverness Constabulary Committee for assistance to preserve the peace, and they also requested the assistance of military from Edinburgh Castle. There was some fear of a riot at Kiltarn, but the settlement there passed off quietly. "It is mentioned that the Rev. Dr Macdonald, Ferintosh, while preaching at Evanton on the Sunday previous, strongly inculcated the necessity of the people conducting themselves with decorum, and even went so far as to say that he would refuse all Church privileges to



such as should take any part in creating a disturbance. We have no doubt this admonition had the best effect."—The foundation-stones of new Free Churches were laid at Fodderty, Creich, and Fearn.

Ibid.—A woman was tried at Dingwall on a charge of practising fraud by pretended witchcraft. Two cases were brought against her. Her method was to tie up and charm a parcel in exchange for one or two pounds of money, and to tell the applicants to place it under their pillow. The results being profitless, the deluded persons opened the parcel, and found it to contain in one case sand and rags, and in another some crumbs of bread. The woman was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

October 11.—A detachment of the 87th Regiment or Irish Fusiliers had landed at Invergordon to be at the disposal of the authorities. The Church rioters now seemed ashamed of their conduct, and apprehensions were made without resistance. The Special Commission of the Free Church issued an address warning the people against taking part in acts of violence, which were "so much calculated to injure the cause of the Church, and so certain to bring down on themselves and others misery and ruin." The address expresses gratification that the ministers of the district had strenuously exerted themselves to prevent and repress excesses; and the Commission appointed an influential deputation to proceed to Ross-shire, and strengthen the hands of the ministers in their efforts.

Ibid.—The weather at the Northern Meeting had been very unfavourable, but there was a large attendance, which included Prince Alexander of the Netherlands, the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, the Duke of Richmond, the Marquis and Marchioness of Douro, &c. At a dinner on Thursday the party numbered 89, with the Duke of Richmond in the chair, and Mackintosh, yr. of Mackintosh, croupier. Highland games were held at the Longman.

Ibid.—A party of thirty ladies and gentlemen visited Prince Charlie's Cave in Glenmoriston. They were preceded up the glen by a piper, and on their return dined with Sir Henry Meux at his lodge at Corrigo.



October 18.—This issue contains the Government proclamation prohibiting the monster meeting at Clontarff, in Ireland, and a notice of the indictment against Daniel O'Connell for conspiracy and other misdeameanours.

Ibid.—It is now announced that peace and order have been restored in Ross-shire. "The steamer, *Modern Athens*, which the Lord Advocate placed at the disposal of the local authorities to convey troops, prisoners, and stores as might be necessary, has already left our coast; and the party of the 87th Regiment, sent north under the command of Captain Kidd, to quell the riots, have been withdrawn to Fort-George to be quartered there over winter, within a few hours' march of any part of the disturbed district. But it may be predicted pretty confidently that their further services will not be required." The outbreak, it is pointed out, was confined to a very small area.

October 25.—A controversy about seat-rents had been going on between the Inverness Town Council and the kirk-session. A series of resolutions was passed by the Town Council, of which the following is the most important:—"That this meeting hereby recalls the permission granted to the ministers and session on the 29th October 1841 to allocate the seats and sittings in the High Church, and appoint the Town Chamberlain, with the assistance of the Magistrates, as a committee to perform this duty; and they are hereby authorised to let sittings or seats in the High Church from and after this date."

November 1.—A special meeting of the Free Church Assembly had been held in Glasgow. Among the subjects considered was the question whether women should have an equal right with men in the election of office-bearers. Several members were strongly in-favour of female voting, but others greatly doubted its expediency. The subject was left to be considered by Presbyteries, and to be taken up at next Assembly.

November 8.—Sir William Ross, a distinguished artist, was presented with the freedom of the burgh of Tain. His grandfather was a native of the town.

Ibid.—The island of Raasay, long the property of the Macleods of Raasay, was sold by auction



in London for 35,000 guineas. Dr Johnson during his journey in 1773 was entertained with great hospitality by the laird of the day, as commemorated both by Johnson himself and Boswell. In a note to Boswell's Journal Dr Carruthers says—"The mansion-house of Raasay was greatly enlarged, and almost rebuilt by the son of Johnson's liberal entertainer, and was, with the estate, sold by the creditors of his grandson. The island was purchased by a lowland gentleman, George Rainy, Esq., and Raasay after a possession of five centuries was lost to the Macleods." The date of the sale is usually given as 1846, but our file shows that it was in 1843. The last laird of Raasay emigrated to Australia.

November 15.—The death is recorded of the Rev. Mr Maclauchlan, minister of Moy, father of Dr Thomas Maclauchlan. Being in ill-health at the time of the Disruption he did not actually come out, but his son, who was assistant and successor, did. There was some correspondence with the Presbytery, because the father had attended Free Church services conducted by his son, but this was cut short by the old gentleman's sudden death. Another son was the Rev. Simon Maclauchlan, long Free Church minister of Cawdor. The deceased was in his 76th year. He was minister of Moy for thirty-seven years, and had previously been minister of the Gaelic Chapel, Edinburgh.

Ibid.—The Town Council of Dingwall resolved to confer the freedom of the burgh on the Earl of Dalhousie for the assistance he had rendered in carrying through the bill constituting Dingwall the head burgh, and also conferred the same compliment on Mr George Bain, Parliamentary agent, and John Macgregor, Secretary to the Board of Trade, a native of the county of Ross.—The freedom of the burgh of Tain was conferred on Lieut.-Macleod of Cadboll, R.N., in recognition of his gallant conduct as a naval officer in Syria and elsewhere, and further as a mark of the respect which the town entertained for his father and grandfather, who were both beloved as kind and indulgent landlords and promoters of improvement. Lieutenant Macleod was afterwards entertained to a public dinner by the tenantry on the estate.



*Ibid.*—At the municipal elections it is stated that the results “cannot be said to have depended on questions of politics or the Church,” and that “the public seem tired of municipal contests.” Mr James Sutherland was re-elected Provost of Inverness.

*Ibid.*—“The marriage of James Matheson, Esq., M.P., to Miss Perceval, which was celebrated in St John’s Episcopal Church [Edinburgh] on Thursday was attended by a great number of the friends of the parties—indeed, the chapel was crowded with ladies and gentlemen. The young and lovely bride was splendidly dressed, and was given away by her uncle, Colonel Perceval, of the Grenadier Guards.” Rejoicings were held at Dingwall, Tain, Achany, and Ashburton, in Devonshire. —The same issue contains tributes to the late Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth.

November 22.—Mr Andrew Lothian Macdonald, solicitor, Tobermory, was entertained to a dinner there on his appointment as Sheriff-Substitute of the Lews.

November 29.—Mr Alexander Dallas was admitted a solicitor at the Inverness bar. Mr Dallas is still well remembered as Town-Clerk of Inverness.

December 6.—A public dinner was given at Tain to Mr George Cameron, Sheriff-Substitute, on his removal to Dingwall. Mr Taylor was his successor as Sheriff at Tain.

December 13.—The Rev. John Kennedy received a call to the Free Church of Dingwall, signed by 270 male adults.

December 20.—There is an account of the slaughter of Captain Wakefield and his companions, nineteen in number, by the Maoris in New Zealand. The British colony was planted in 1840, and from 1843 until 1869 there were frequent native wars.

December 27.—The death is recorded of Thomas Graham, Lord Lynedoch, the hero of Barrosa, at the age of 95. A paragraph mentions that as a boy Graham was a pupil of Ossian Macpherson, and that they were together at Moffat when Macpherson met Home and communicated to him translations of Gaelic fragments which led to the subsequent versions of Ossian.



## No. III.

In 1844 there was great political activity and agitation. The controversy on the Corn Laws was approaching its acute stage, and Factory Legislation was initiated. Lord Ashley, afterwards Lord Shaftesbury, made a strong effort to secure a ten hours day, but he did not as yet succeed, although on a resolution he twice defeated the Government. In their bill, however, Ministers successfully resisted the clause, but their measure contained useful provisions regulating the labour of children. The long trial of Daniel O'Connell and his confederates on charges of conspiracy and sedition resulted in their conviction in Dublin, but the judgment was upset by a majority of the House of Lords. Peel passed his Bank Charter Act for England, and there was considerable apprehension of his interference with the Scottish Banking system. Mr Gladstone carried a bill for the improvement of railway carriages for third class passengers. Mr Disraeli was beginning to make his influence felt in the House of Commons. A dispute with France about Tahiti was settled this year. There was much indignation in this country at the repudiation of debts by public authorities in the United States. Socially, the visits to England of the Czar Nicholas and King Louis Philippe excited interest.

In Scotland the expansion of the Free Church was carried forward. New churches were rapidly erected in the Highlands. There was a good deal of friction in connection with sites, but only a few of the northern proprietors refused for any length of time. The first scheme for a railway between Inverness and Perth was put forward. In the town of Inverness there was a warm dispute between the High Church and the Town Council on the subject of seat rents. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited



Blair-Atholl, and the Crown Prince of Denmark and the King of Saxony had a tour in the Highlands, which included Inverness.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

January 3.—The new English Free Church in Inverness, the first building erected in Bank Street by the Free High congregation, was opened on the previous Sabbath, when Rev. C. C. Mackintosh, of Tain, afterwards of Dunoon, conducted the services forenoon, afternoon, and evening. The church was crowded all day, and in the evening the standing-room in the passages was occupied. The total collection amounted to £61 3s 11d. It is stated that two beautiful collection plates, presented by Mr Forbes of Culloden, were used for the first time on this occasion.

Ibid.—An account is given of the raising of the "Uncertain," of Sunderland, a vessel which had sunk in eleven fathoms of water in Broad-bay, island of Lewis, by Mr Bremner, ship-builder and civil engineer, Wick. It is stated that the vessel was the heaviest ever lifted in Britain in such an exposed place.

January 10.—A service of plate was presented to Provost Sutherland, Inverness, on the occasion of his opening the Glenalbyn Distillery, in testimony of his enterprising spirit and public services.

January 17.—Several persons concerned in the mobbing and rioting at Cromarty and Resolis in connection with Church affairs were tried at the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh. Two were sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and a third who had assisted in breaking into Cromarty jail was sentenced to imprisonment for nine months. It turned out that the cell from which the mob had released the woman was known as the black hole, and had no window except a hole unglazed and with iron stanchions on a level with the ground. The size of the cell was eleven feet by twelve. The woman, however, was in it only a short time. When the mob attacked the jail the jailer locked himself in another room.

Ibid.—It is announced that the island of Lewis has been purchased by Mr James Matheson of Achany, M.P., for £190,000. The population of the island at the time is given as about



15,000, but it was really over 17,000. At the census of 1901 the population was close on 29,000. The purchase by **Mr Matheson** was regarded as matter for rejoicing. "Thousands of the poor islanders are in a wretched condition; the worst fed, worst clothed, and worst housed peasantry in Britain are to be found in this remote, uncultivated island." It has been calculated that between 1844 and his death in 1878 **Sir James Matheson** (he was created a baronet in 1851) spent on his island property £384,363, besides the purchase money, making a total of £574,363.

January 24.—There is notice of a pamphlet by **Sir George Mackenzie** of Coul on the choice of wheat for seed.—A meeting of Ross-shire farmers petitioned against any interference with the Corn Laws.

January 31.—Major **Mackenzie**, Fodderty, died the previous week in his seventy-fifth year. He is described as an eminent agriculturist, who might be said to have introduced scientific culture into Ross-shire. He was the first to apply lime to the soil.

February 7.—In this issue a letter appears from London headed "From our Private Correspondent." It is contemporaneous with the opening of Parliament. In previous years there had been an occasional letter, written probably by a friend or by the editor himself on his visits to London. This date, however, is the beginning of the series written by **Mr Roderick Reach**, and continued afterwards by his son, **Mr Angus B. Reach**, and by other correspondents for many years. **Mr Roderick Reach** had been a solicitor and accountant in Inverness, but he went to London in 1843, and lived there till his death in 1853. His letters were much appreciated in the North of Scotland. In the first he describes a bout between **Sir Robert Peel** and **Mr Villiers** on the subject of the Corn Laws. **Sir Robert** declared "that the Ministry had never contemplated and did not now contemplate making any change on the existing Corn Laws." The correspondent, however, shrewdly observed that the words did not convey as much consolation as they seemed to do; that they almost appeared like an invitation for more pressure from without. "We are squeezable, but the screw wants a turn



or two yet." It is stated that the earnestness of Mr Villiers, at that time the champion in Parliament for the removal of the Corn Laws, "gave great and telling effect to the fierce denunciations which he hurled at the aristocracy and the landowners."

*Ibid.*—There was a meeting of agriculturists in Dingwall which passed resolutions against the repeal of the Corn Laws. Provost Cameron dissented, and proposed an amendment, but found no seconder.

*Ibid.*—The parish minister of Kilmallie, in Lochaber, had cut down a number of trees on the glebe before his demission. The heritors raised an action in the Fort-William Sheriff Court, and it was decided that he had exceeded his right of administration, and that the heritors were entitled to take possession of the timber.

February 14.—The widow of Mr Robert Logan, of Egham Lodge, Surrey, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Mackenzie, died recently in London. She was a granddaughter of Provost Hossack, of Inverness, and daughter of the Rev. Murdoch Mackenzie, one of the ministers of the Inverness High Church, whose work in the eighteenth century was long remembered. It is stated that he was a warm friend of evangelical religion, and admitted John Wesley to the High Church pulpit.

February 21.—The trial of Daniel O'Connell and his colleagues for sedition and conspiracy in connection with the agitation for the repeal of the Union had been going on for weeks in Dublin. The jury had now returned a verdict of guilty. The editor expressed considerable hesitation in accepting the judgment as sound. It was a case of constructive conspiracy, as not a single act committed was in itself illegal.

*Ibid.*—The London correspondent writes—"Lieutenant Grant, the second of Lieutenant Munro in the late unfortunate duel, has been acquitted. There is of course no moral doubt as to his having acted as second, but the legal proof as to his identity was deficient. There is a very strong impression that had Lieutenant Munro surrendered, the same absence of legal proof of identity would have led to his acquittal also."

*Ibid.*—A difference has for some time past ex-



isted between the Magistrates and Council [of Inverness] and a portion of the seat-holders of the High Church, who demand that a sum of £70 shall be annually appropriated from the seat rents towards augmenting the stipend of the minister of the third charge. The seat-holders having obtained an opinion of counsel on their case, proposed a conference with the Council, which the latter declined on the ground that it was premature, until an opportunity was afforded to the Magistrates and Council of examining and materially considering the memorial and opinion of counsel obtained by the seat-holders." The Council circulated a paper dated 1769, showing how the Magistrates and Council had undertaken the building of the existing church, borrowing £1000 for the purpose.

February 28.—Further particulars are given of the dispute between the Kirk-Session of the High Church and the Town Council, and a copy is published of the legal opinion obtained by the seat-holders. It is stated that in 1769, when the old church had fallen into disrepair, the Presbytery threatened a prosecution of the Magistrates and heritors, and that this led to the agreement to build the new church. The Magistrates borrowed a considerable sum of money, and Sir Hector Munro gave a donation of £1000 to aid in the erection of the church. It was contended that by uplifting the seat-rents the original cost of the building, principal and interest, had long been repaid.

Ibid.—There is a paragraph on the death of an old man named Robert Grant, Grantown, who had acted for many years as ferryman at Cromdale. He possessed an inexhaustible fund of traditionary lore, and an extraordinary power of narrative and description.

March 6.—The London correspondent refers to the "Young England" group of the Conservative party. He gives as the principal members Lord John Manners, Lord Mahon, Mr Smythe, Mr Baillie Cochrane, Mr Monckton Milnes, "and last, not least," Mr Disraeli. The writer says their notions are extreme, yet generally advocated with a talent and acuteness that secure the attention of the House. "But it is the sort of attention which grown-up folks bestow on clever, pre-



cocious children." He notes that they blow hot and cold on Sir Robert Peel's Government.

**Ibid.**—An obituary notice from a Toronto paper records the death at River Raisins, near Williamstown, Glengarry, of Captain Donald M'Gillis, "A U.E. Loyalist, and a native of Glengarry, Inverness-shire, from which he emigrated in 1773, along with his father's family and a number of his countrymen, who formed a settlement on the banks of the Mohawk River, in the then province of New York." On the outbreak of the Revolutionary War he took an active part on the Loyalist side, and in 1784 settled at Charlottenburgh. Captain M'Gillis was eighty years of age.—Another notice records the death of Captain Gregory Grant, a distinguished officer of the Royal Navy, who died at Burnside, Cromdale, aged 66.

**Ibid.**—A meeting was held to revive and improve the Mechanics Institution. There was still a sum of from £30 to £40 at the credit of the institution, and a good collection of books. It was proposed to raise subscriptions and establish a reading-room.

**March 13.**—The death is recorded of Captain George G. M. Cobban, of the 50th Foot, "Our brave townsman" who fell at the battle of Penniar in India. He was gallantly leading his company to capture some guns when he was struck down by grape-shot.

**Ibid.**—A largely attended meeting of heritors and farmers was held at Inverness in support of the Corn Laws—Mackintosh of Mackintosh presiding. The speakers in favour of the existing laws were the Chairman, Mr Fraser-Tytler, convener of the county; Mr Burnett, Kinchyle; Mr Baillie of Leys, Dr Nicol, Mr Mactavish, town-clerk; and Mr France, Wester Lovat. A resolution recommending a moderate fixed duty was proposed by Mr Grant, yr. of Ballindalloch, seconded by Lord Lovat, and supported by General Sir John Rose of Holme; Mr Gentle, Dell; the Provost of Inverness, &c. The vote stood 45 in favour of the existing protection as against 18 in favour of a fixed duty. Mr C. Rose, Dean of Guild, proposed a motion on behalf of total abolition of the Corn Laws, but he found no seconder.



**Ibid.**—In removing some stones from a large cairn at the foot of Craigoury, in the barony of Kincardine, Abernethy, the workmen discovered a small vault, about five feet long and three wide, which contained a quantity of human bones, including two skulls of uncommon size. It was obvious that the bodies could not have been laid at full length. The cairn was known to old residents as Carn-na-fheal, translated by the contributor as "Cairn of flesh." It is stated that "there are many cairns and other vestiges of old warfare interspersed throughout the truly romantic district of Kincardine."

**March 20.**—A Ross-shire meeting advocating the retention of the Corn Laws was held at Dingwall, and resolutions were passed on the subject. There were, however, a few dissentients, consisting of Colonel Ross of Strathgarve, Provost Cameron, Mr Ross, Humbers-ton; Provost Gillanders, Fortrose; and Mr Laidlaw, Contin. Sir George Mackenzie of Coul and the Hon. Mrs Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth wrote letters condemning the Corn Laws. The meeting otherwise was unanimous, and was large and influential. General Munro of Teaninich was in the chair, and Mr Davidson of Tulloch was one of the chief speakers.

**Ibid.**—The winter had been long and severe. The snow-storm was of seven weeks' duration, and still remained. Shortly afterwards, however, it disappeared.

**March 27.**—It is mentioned as a sign of progress that a reading-room had been established at Invergordon. "A century has not passed away since the first bookseller's shop was established in Inverness. Matters have now assumed a different aspect, and intelligence travels with the rapidity of a steam-carriage."

**April 3.**—The workmen engaged in the Caledonian Canal found at Bona, near Loch-Ness, a silver coin of the reign of Queen Elizabeth in excellent preservation.

**April 10.**—"Generations have passed away without seeing a rat on the island of Tarinsay, on the west coast of Harris. An innumerable swarm of these annoying and destructive vermin has, of late, spread over the island, notwithstanding the efforts made



by Mr Macdonald, the tacksman, to extirpate them. They appear to be increasing so fast that they threaten to over-run the whole island, and keep violent possession of it. They are supposed to have come from the island of Soay, which lies at the distance of about three miles from Tarinsay, and into which the Earl of Dunmore, some years ago, ordered some rabbits to be sent. Soon after this the rats, which were formerly very numerous in the island of Soay, completely disappeared, having removed in a body to the neighbouring island of Tarinsay, from which they are not inclined to make their departure in a hurry."

April 17.—The English Free Church congregation of Inverness had agreed to give a call to the Rev. Joseph Thorburn, Forglen. The call came before the Synod of Aberdeen on the 9th inst. Mr Thorburn expressed his desire to remain in Forglen, as he considered it the field for which he was most suited. The Synod accordingly declined to translate him, but the parties from Inverness appealed to the General Assembly.

Ibid.—The death is announced of Lord Abinger, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, long known as Sir James Scarlett. "His active and distinguished life was passed during the reigns of four sovereigns."

Ibid.—A presentation was issued in favour of Mr Alexander Macgregor, M.A., licentiate of the Church of Scotland, to become assistant and successor to his father, the Rev. Robert Macgregor, in the parish of Kilmuir, Skye. Mr Macgregor was afterwards minister of the West Church, Inverness.

April 24.—The revived Mechanics' Institute had been established in Inverness, and promised to prove a success.

May 1.—Mr Macpherson-Grant, yr. of Ballindalloch, and Mr Ogilvy of Corriemony, were appointed joint conveners of the county of Inverness.—The Rev. John Lees, M.A., was presented to the Church and parish of Stornoway. He was the father of Dr Cameron Lees, Edinburgh.

May 8.—Alastair Muidhe MacIodair, who was regarded as the last of the Gaelic bards, died in Gairloch, Ross-shire, at the age of 84. He was bard to the lairds of Gairloch, from



whom he had a pension. The editor reminds his readers that a young bard had arisen, Evan Maccoll, author of "The Mountain Minstrel."

**May 15.**—A preliminary meeting of gentlemen connected with the North was held in the Inverness Town Hall, on the requisition of Provost Sutherland, to consider the practicability of constructing a railway between Inverness and Perth, by the way generally of the Highland road, through Strathspey, Badenoch, and Athole. A report was read from Mr Joseph Mitchell, C.E., which suggested a route through Petty, across the River Nairn at Geddes, and thence by Dulsie towards Lochindorb and Strathspey. A committee of inquiry was appointed.

**May 22.**—The London correspondent records the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the Girls' School to be attached to the Caledonian Asylum.—The fee for membership of the Inverness Mechanics' Institute was fixed at 5s per annum, and 3s for apprentices.

**May 29.**—The Free Church General Assembly resolved by a majority to translate the Rev. Joseph Thorburn from Forglen to Inverness. Mr Thorburn said that though he continued of the same opinion as he had formerly expressed, he left the case to the wisdom and prayers of his fathers and brethren. The Assembly also dismissed an appeal from Maryburgh, in Ross-shire, and confirmed the proposal to transfer the Rev. George Macleod from Maryburgh to Lochbroom.

**June 5.**—The judgment in the Irish State trials is reported. Daniel O'Connell was sentenced to be imprisoned for twelve months, to pay a fine of £2000, to enter into his own recognisances for good behaviour for the space of seven years in the sum of £5000 and two sureties of £2500 each. The other parties were sentenced to nine months' imprisonment each, a fine of £50, and to enter into security, themselves in £1000, and two sureties of £500 a-piece. There was an appeal pending to the House of Lords, but meantime execution of the sentence was not delayed.

**Ibid.**—The General Assembly came to a decision respecting questions at issue between the West Church and the Presbytery of Inverness. The Assembly found that it was



*ultra vires* of the Church Courts to divide the parish of Inverness in the manner arranged in the Presbytery minutes, and declared that the united parish of Inverness and Bona was still but one parish *quoad omnia*, and that the ministers and elders connected with the English, Gaelic, and West Churches formed one united session, the communicants in each church being entitled to the same standing in the communion roll of the entire parish. It appeared that the debts still due on the West Church amounted to £1807, and that Mr Clark had accepted the sole liability, holding the building and property as his security. The Assembly declared that their finding was not to be understood as in any respect weakening this security.

**Ibid.**—The Inverness Town Council agreed to confer the freedom of the burgh on Mr Rowland Hill in recognition of his services in establishing the penny post.

**June 12.**—The death is announced of Dr J. G. Malcolmson, a native of Forres, which took place at Dhoolia on the 21st of March. "Dr Malcolmson's attainments in science were of a high order. In geology he particularly excelled, and his writings in connection with that science called forth the unqualified approbation of some of the most eminent philosophers of the day."

**Ibid.**—There is a long extract taken from the report of the Poor-Law Commission, on the condition of the poor in the Highland districts. The poverty in the western districts was set down largely to the desultory habits of the people and the lack of regular employment. Their ignorance of the English language operated against them. The relief of the able-bodied by means of a poor-law seemed to the Commission and their witnesses to be of doubtful expediency. What was required was "the full development of industrious habits."

**Ibid.**—A suggestion was made from Aberdeen for a railway between that city and Inverness. "No railway in the kingdom, of the same length, could be executed with more facility or at less expense."

**June 19.**—Frederick, Crown Prince of Denmark, who was on a tour through the country, visited Inverness the previous week,



having come with his suite through the Caledonian Canal. He paid a visit to Culloeden battlefield, where Mr George Anderson acted as guide. Mr Forbes of Culloeden and Mr Mackintosh of Raigmore were also present, and the former presented the Prince with part of a pistol and a cannon ball both dug up on the field. The Prince was entertained to luncheon in the Northern Meeting Rooms, and afterwards travelled across the Black Isle to Oromarty, where he embarked on board a Danish frigate for a visit to the Faroe Islands.

Ibid.—“Mr Macgillivray, schoolmaster at Farr, Strathnairn, lately discovered while trenching his garden to more than the usual depth, an ancient and very rude stone patera, or drinking cup, formed out of a solid piece of granite, or rather primary hornblende rock. It is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  deep, with a knob or handle on one side of it, which was perforated so as to receive a string or thong for carrying it. It weighs one pound nine ounces, and holds a gill of imperial measure. Two rude lines are carved round the lip, with cross lines scooped between them, after the form common on the most ancient sepulchral urns.” It is added that several cups of the same kind were in the museum.

June 26.—On the 17th inst. Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth was married in London to Miss Hope Vere, eldest daughter of the late Mr Hope Vere of Craigiehall and Blackwood. The bride was given away by the Duke of Wellington. Rejoicings were held on the Seaforth estates.

Ibid.—About 1500 workmen were at this time engaged in the deepening and repairing of the Caledonian Canal. There had been a drought which reduced the waters of Loch-Oich to an exceptionally low level, and this afforded facilities for removing from the channel some hundreds of trees, consisting chiefly of the finest black oak—some of the blocks  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet in diameter, and other logs from 25 to 30 feet in length. Several were in a high state of preservation, others charred by fire. “There were also found a few logs artificially hollowed out, which, to all appearance, were made for serving the purpose of canoes. These inter-



esting relics were almost completely destroyed in being fished up, with the exception of one, which, though materially injured, is in a better state of preservation. It is about 15 feet in length—the sides of the hollow 15 to 18 inches deep, curving inwards a little at one end, and the width at bottom being 9 or 10 inches.” Mr Jackson, the contractor, proposed to have the pieces of the canoe put together and deposited in the Inverness Museum. It is not there now.

*Ibid.*—The death is announced of the poet Thomas Campbell, and a sketch of his life extends to a column-and-half.

July 3.—The opening of Mazzini's letters by the authorities of the Post-office was a subject of Parliamentary and public controversy. Sir James Graham bore the brunt of the attack, which was afterwards renewed. It was found that he had not overstepped the law, and the power still remains in the hands of Secretaries of State. Mr Stuart Parker, however, in his *Life of Sir James*, acknowledges that probably “this furious outburst of ill-informed popular indignation” has restricted the use of warrants for inspection.

*Ibid.*—Several items may be grouped. The Inverness Town Council appointed a committee to see whether arrangements could be made for running an omnibus from the Exchange to Kessock Ferry at a fare of threepence. The idea was to offer a premium not exceeding £5 to a contractor. The same meeting appointed a committee to communicate with the Avoch fishermen with the view of procuring a supply of white fish for the town during the season of the herring fishery.—A young roe swimming in Loch-Ness was pursued and captured by Captain Turner and crew of the steamer “Helen Macgregor.”—The Inverness and Northern Horticultural Society had a successful summer exhibition.—The Duke of Sutherland had now granted sites for Free Churches in every parish in Sutherland.—A boat was upset at Ness, in the Lews, and five lives were lost.

July 10.—Several persons attempted to resist, in the Sheriff Court, the payment of an assessment for the relief of the poor. Decrees, however, were given against them.—Two attempts were made at Nairn by resurrection-



ists to open a child's grave, but on both occasions they were discovered and fled.

July 17.—A large number of noblemen and gentlemen in the Northern Counties formed themselves into a committee to inquire into the scheme for constructing a railway between Inverness and Perth.

Ibid.—The prices at the Inverness Wool Market were particularly good. Compared with the previous year the advance on sheep was from 20 to 25 per cent., and on wool from 30 to 50 per cent. Prices for Cheviot widders ran from 21s to 24s and 26s, and in one exceptional case to 29s; for ewes, from 10s to 16s; blackfaced widders fetched on an average about 15s or 16s, but a few lots reached 18s and 19s, and one lot fetched 21s; blackfaced ewes ran from 6s 6d to 10s 6d. The best Cheviot lambs realised 10s 6d and 11s, blackfaced lambs from 5s to 7s, and in one case 8s. Crosses were also in active demand at high prices. Cheviot wool was quoted from 15s to 17s; the Dunrobin lot sold at 18s. "A lot of Cheviot wool, prepared in a peculiar manner, without the usual tar and butter, was sold by Dr Mackenzie, Kinnellan, at 19s 6d." A lot of half-bred wool realised 25s 6d. On the market days Professor Johnston, chemist to the Agricultural Chemistry Association, delivered in the Sheriff Court-House a series of three lectures on soils, manures, and vegetable produce. His services had been obtained by the Inverness Farmer Society.

Ibid.—A large school of whales was driven on the 1st inst. into a bay near Stornoway, and slaughtered. The total number is given as 179. The whales were sold for £483. In subsequent issues there are notices of captures in the Orkneys and Shetland. The season was remarkable for the movement of whales.

July 24.—The Inverness Town Council agreed to give £10 to assist in running an omnibus to Kessock Ferry. They also agreed to offer a premium of 1s 3d "for every full-sized creel of fish brought into the town during the time of the herring fishing."—The Gaelic Church congregation proposed to give a call to the Rev. D. Maconnachie, late of the Presbytery of Picton, Nova Scotia. The charge had



been vacant since 27th September, but the Presbytery had waived their right of presentation, and at their next meeting sanctioned the call.—The Rev. Joseph Thorburn was inducted to the charge of the Free English congregation.

July 31.—A correspondence between the Rev. John Mactavish, Free Church of Ballachulish, and Mr Maclean of Ardgour, regarding a site for a Free Church, illustrates the temper of the times.—The visit to Inverness of a famous vocalist, Mr Templeton, created "admiration amounting to enthusiasm."—A paragraph from the "John o' Groat Journal" states that "the implement of household use on which the celebrated John o' Groat was accustomed to hang his kettle over the fire is now in the possession of a woman in the parish of Canisbay." Naturally she attached great value to the old "crook."—No fewer than 500 bottle-nosed whales appeared in Scapa Bay, Orkney, and 100 of them were captured.

Ibid.—The King of Saxony was on a tour through Scotland. He visited Staffa and Iona and Glenfinnan, and would have climbed Ben-Nevis had it not been for the unfavourable weather. On his way through the Caledonian Canal he sketched Invergarry Castle and visited the Falls of Foyers. Sunday was spent in Inverness. In the morning his Majesty went to examine the vitrified fort of Craig-Phadrack, and afterwards attended service in the Roman Catholic Chapel. In the afternoon he drove to Culloden Moor, Kilravock, and Cawdor. The King returned south by way of Dunkeld. "Nothing could be more simple or unostentatious than the demeanour of the Saxon monarch. He is strongly attached to geological and botanical pursuits, and seems averse to all courtly splendour and display."

August 7.—The marriage of Lady Elizabeth Georgina, eldest daughter of the Duke of Sutherland, to the Marquis of Lorne, only son of the Duke of Argyll, took place the previous week at Trentham. Rejoicings were held on the Sutherland estates.—A list of shooting tenants in the Highlands consists of about ninety names.

August 14.—A great Burns festival took place at Ayr, at which the sons and near relatives



of the poet were present. The editor, who gives a long and graphic account of the pageant, procession, and banquet, says that from fifty to sixty thousand persons assembled to do honour to the memory of the poet. He mentions the presence of one faithful friend—"one on whom Time has gently laid her hand, as if in fulfilment of the poet's dying benediction. We allude to Mrs Thomson, Dumfries, the Jessie of some of his sweetest lyrics and verses, who helped to support his sinking frame the last time he was seen abroad, and on whom, while she ministered to his relief in sickness, he made his last effort at poetical composition." The Earl of Eglinton was in the chair at the banquet, and Professor Wilson (Christopher North) was croupier.

Ibid.—The property of Kernsary was purchased by the tutors of Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Gairloch for £6000.

Ibid.—A memorandum on the proposed railway from Inverness to Perth states that "there are at present nine daily coaches, as well appointed as any in Britain, starting from and arriving at Inverness; regular steamers ply thence to London, Leith, and Glasgow; and our Highland roads are confessedly inferior to none. Why then should not the Northern Counties communicate with the south by railway?"

August 21.—An Ayr newspaper acknowledges "a very ingenious and tasteful piece of penmanship" executed by one of the pupils of Mr Falconer, of the Inverness Royal Academy, and transmitted by Mr Carruthers as an offering for Burns' monument. The sheet contained in the centre an excellent portrait of Burns, round which was wreathed a tribute to the immortal genius of the poet. The young artist was Arthur Joass, aged thirteen years. "The present well deserves a niche in the monument. It does credit to the young gentleman both as respects its merits and the feelings which prompted its execution."

Ibid.—The death took place at Forres of Lieut.-Colonel Lewis Carmichael, aged 52. He began his career as an ensign in the 59th Foot in 1809, and was on active service in the Peninsula and in India. At St Sebastian he was the only officer out of thirteen who ac-



accompanied the advance which entered the town. During the disturbances in Canada "the Glengarry Highlanders looked up to him as a brother, while they obeyed him as a chief. The cairn raised by them in honour of Lord Seaton was planned at the suggestion of Colonel Carmichael, and his own assistance in rearing this singular structure was not wanting." Colonel Carmichael cherished the language and customs of the Gael. His remains were interred among his native hills in the Church-yard of Cromdale.

*Ibid.*—This week the first number of a monthly publication called "The Inverness and Northern Agriculturist," price twopence, was issued from the "Courier" Office. It was undertaken by Mr Carruthers at the recommendation and request of Professor Johnston, and a large number of the landed proprietors and farmers of the Northern Counties.

August 28.—An attempt was made at this time to naturalise in this country the alpaca of Peru, "an animal valuable both for its fleece and carcass." This issue mentions that the total of pure and mixed breeds in the country, apparently both in England and Scotland, was estimated at 210, divided among various individuals. The Marquis of Breadalbane had a few for a short time, but they all died except one. "It was the opinion of the Marquis's people who had charge of them that the pasturage was too rich, and that they would have done better on hill ground." The alpaca and llama were to be seen grazing on fields belonging to Mr Stevenson near Oban, feeding exactly like Highland cattle, and going out with the cows to pasture. One authority believed that the alpaca could thrive in Scotland as well as blackfaced sheep. From a book published at this time it would seem that experiments at naturalising the alpaca had been going on for about twenty-five years.

*Ibid.*—Mr Sim, Scotsburn, Ross-shire, gives an account of the application of guano to the soil. "It is three years since the first few experiments were made with this manure in Britain. Their success led to further ones. But it is only now, in 1844, that a general impression of its importance has been arrived at."



Ibid.—The new omnibus between the Inverness Exchange and Kessock Ferry began running the previous day.—The freedom of Dingwall was conferred on Mr Matheson of Achany, M.P....There is a long notice of the second number of the "North British Review," signed R. R., probably Roderick Reach. The contribution contains an appreciative account and some criticism of an article attributed to Hugh Miller, on Scottish Fishermen.

September 4.—"We understand that our countryman, John Fraser, Esq., formerly Provost of Inverness, has just removed from Sherbrooke, in Canada, to Chatham, in the Western district, as agent for the Montreal Bank. Our respected townsman will there be in a milder climate, at the head of the Thames River navigation, and surrounded by a splendid and improving country. We cordially wish him all health and prosperity."

September 11.—A show of Cheviot sheep was held at Lairg, in Sutherland, the previous week. The editor took occasion to pay a visit to the spot, and wrote two very interesting columns on the district and its traditions.

Ibid.—The writ of error brought by O'Connell and his colleagues against the judgment of the Irish Court was sustained by a majority of the House of Lords. "The question being put, Lords Denman, Cottenham, and Campbell voted for the reversal of the judgment, and the Lord Chancellor and Lord Brougham for its affirmation. The decision of the Court then was that the judgment of the Court below ought to be reversed, and the traversers were virtually declared innocent and once more free."

September 18.—The Queen and Prince Albert visited Scotland. They travelled by their yacht to Dundee, and thence proceeded to Blair Castle.

Ibid.—"Many of our northern parochial schoolmasters having joined the secession of last year, have been called upon by the Presbyteries to re-subscribe the Confession of Faith and formula of the Church of Scotland, and upon their refusal to comply have been summarily deposed from their office. Some of them resolved on retaining possession notwithstanding, and it has in consequence been deemed necessary to apply for the aid of the



civil authority to expel them." One of these cases occurred at Contin, in Ross-shire.

September 25.—A communication from Mr Grant of Kincorth to the Inverness Farmer Society describes the plantations he had made on the outskirts of the Sands of Culbin, near Forres. These plantations covered about seventy acres, in the form of a belt extending about a mile in length, and varying from 100 to 400 yards in breadth. Part of the ground was a flat, sandy moor, but a large part consisted of sandhills alone. The planting began in 1837, and was continued annually in portions of from fifteen to twenty acres. Mr Grant was satisfied that he had made a successful attempt to clothe pure sand hills with thriving plantations of Scotch and larch firs. He did not expect the timber to be of any great size or value, but the trees clothed a sandy spot, and might be useful for many rural purposes.

Ibid.—A sum of £75 9s 6d was collected in Inverness for the National Memorial to Rowland Hill.

October 2.—It is mentioned that at the annual ball given by Mr and Mrs Lowe to their pupils in the Northern Meeting Rooms the great novelty of the evening was the polka, which had lately become fashionable. "The dance was exhibited here for the first time, and excited a strong interest, especially when performed in the Bohemian costume."

Ibid.—The same issue contains a description of Falkirk Tryst, a market of long standing, and then steadily rising in importance. It is stated that occasionally there had appeared at the market 25,000 head of cattle and 45,000 sheep; and that the total amount of money which changed hands at the three markets in August, September, and October was estimated at upwards of half-a-million sterling.

October 9.—Satisfactory progress was being made with the preliminaries of the proposed railway between Inverness and Perth. Mr Joseph Mitchell, C.E., was carrying out a fresh survey for the promoters.—Mr Thomas Fraser, solicitor, Inverness, was appointed Sheriff-Substitute of Skye.

Ibid.—In carrying out the improvement of the Caledonian Canal considerable excavations were made at Bona and the site of the



"rude keep or fortress" called Castle Spiritual. "In removing some of the ruins of the Castle, a number of human bones, the teeth being remarkably fresh and entire, and one complete skeleton, were found. Some coins of the reign of Elizabeth were also dug up; but what occasioned most surprise was the discovery of a nest of toads, completely encased in the solid wall, with apparently not the slightest opening by which ingress could be obtained. In a small cavity, about three inches in diameter, were found six toads and a lizard. On their first admission to the light of day the toads appeared insensible. but on being touched by the men they speedily revived."

Ibid.—Races, Highland games, and a competition of pipers formed the outdoor programme of the Northern Meeting. The weather was not very favourable, but the attendance was as large as usual. The Duke of Richmond presided on Thursday and Lord Saltoun on Friday.—A column and a-half, bearing the initials A. B. R. (Angus Bethune Reach), describes Boulogne and Picardy.—A public meeting was held at Dingwall to instal Mr Dickson, the new teacher of the Burgh School, and his assistant, Mr Borthwick.

Ibid.—On the previous Tuesday the Queen and Prince Albert brought their visit to Blair Castle to a close, joining their yacht at Dundee for Woolwich. On the day before their departure the Queen and Prince drove down Glen-Tilt. "It is stated that no fewer than fifteen thousand deer were collected before the view of her Majesty, who was so delighted that she looked on the scene for hours, causing them to be repeatedly separated and driven back, and then again sent forward to disport on the beautiful slopes with which the banks of Glen-Tilt abound."

October 16.—"A numerous and well-mounted party of gentlemen in hunting dresses" met for coursing at the Longman. They failed to start a hare, and then let out a bagged fox. No persuasion, however, could make him run. As he moved about watching the crowd, the hounds dashed in, but were driven off with whips. "In the course of half-an-hour some hundred or so of boys, headed by a yelping cur dog, bore down on the field, and great



was their joy when the fox, no longer able to brook their din, sprang over the dyke, and at a rattling pace dashed down the Longman, closely followed by his tormentors, with the dogs snuffing at his heels; but in spite of them all he pursued the even tenor of his way, turning in the direction of the river's mouth, where he took the water, amid a volley of stones, but, heeding them not, he breasted the billows and landed safe in Ross-shire."

October 23.—"The old bell in our fine steeple, which was broken at the time of the rejoicings consequent on the victory of Waterloo, was taken down on Friday week, to be recast or exchanged for a new one. It was found to weigh nearly 3 cwt., and bears the following inscription:—'Recast and augmented by Sir Alexander Grant of Dalvey, Bart., Member of Parliament for Inverness, &c. Anno 1763.'"—The Town Council at this time subscribed £10 to have a clock placed in the Merkinch, in a new house which was being built at the junction of four streets.

Ibid.—As part of the improvement of the Caledonian Canal, it was resolved to construct a new lock at Gairloch, at the western end of Loch-Lochy, to serve as a protection against the rise of floods in the lake. The foundation-stone was laid with great ceremony on the 16th inst. by Mr James Loch, M.P., one of the Commissioners. It is stated that the principal contractor was Mr Thomas Jackson, from Aston, Birmingham, whose contract ran to £137,000.

Ibid.—At the October meeting of the Inverness Farmer Society there was a discussion on the best mode of applying guano.

October 30.—"Dr Mackenzie, Kinellan [better known in later days as of Eileanach, Inverness], is about to confer on the tenants of Gairloch the practical benefits of the allotment system, which is to be commenced on a liberal scale, namely, to the extent of 700 allotments, varying from two to four acres. Dr Mackenzie visited Eastbourne, in Sussex, where the allotment system is pursued; and so perfectly satisfied was he of its simplicity, general practicability, and results that he has unceasingly laboured to introduce a similar practice into the Highlands. Whether our



inferior soils and climate will suit as well as the richer lands of Sussex for the small allotment system may be doubted, but the experiment, under benevolent guidance and support, is at least worth a trial."

November 6.—The Calcutta mail brought news of the death of Lieut. Mackintosh, formerly aide-de-camp to Lord Ellenborough, to whom was confided the safe custody of the Mysore princes. He was the youngest son of the late William Mackintosh of Balnespick, and an officer of great promise.

November 13.—The Inverness municipal elections created little interest. In Dingwall Mr Hugh Innes Cameron was re-elected Provost.

November 20.—A report is given of a lecture on the Island of Lewis, delivered in Glasgow by Mr Smith of Deanston. He describes the mode of life and husbandry. Mr Smith thought that if the land were properly improved, it would maintain twice the number of the then inhabitants.—The same issue devotes four columns to a report of the soiree of the Mechanics' Institution.

November 27.—The Nairnshire Farmer Society had offered premiums for the best experiments in raising turnips or potatoes by means of guano or other new manure. A long statement of the results is published.

December 4.—At the Inverness Martinmas market there was a competition in butter and cheese for premiums offered by the Highland and Agricultural Society. There had been a competition for butter the previous year, but not for cheese. "The effect of these competitions on the district generally was observable in the vast quantities of butter and cheese exhibited at this Martinmas market, which in general, for quality and cleanliness, were decidedly and greatly superior to what they used to be."—In the same issue the editor makes a strong appeal for the repair and improvement of the Ness Islands. "The bridge on the Bught side of the river is an eyesore, broken down as it is, and half-covered with water."

Ibid.—Lieut.-General Sir John Cameron, K.C.B., nephew of Cameron of Callart, died recently in Guernsey. Born in 1773, he entered the army in 1787, and served with great distinction in the West Indies and in



the Peninsula. Sir John was subsequently appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Plymouth, and had the military command of the western district, which he held for fourteen years. In 1835 he was appointed to the colonelcy of the 9th Regiment.

December 18.—An agitation had been going on in Scotland against interference with the system of Scottish banking, which Sir Robert Peel was believed to have in contemplation. A meeting was held in Inverness, with Mr Henry J. Baillie, M.P., in the chair, which passed resolutions of protest.—The same week there was a meeting to consider a proposal for the erection of a lunatic asylum at Inverness. A sum of £1700 had been subscribed, which included £200 from the Duke of Sutherland and £500 from Mr Matheson of Achany.

December 25.—The London correspondent records long-continued depressing weather in the metropolis. "Bitterly severe winds, almost blistering to the skin, prevail to the great discomfort of man and beast. Until yesterday we had not seen one blink of the sun since 28th October, when the Queen visited the city."



## No. IV.

The year 1845 is of exceptional interest both in national and local affairs. It was the year that formed the turning point in the fortunes of Sir Robert Peel's Government, which entered on office with such confidence and enthusiasm in 1841. At the opening of the session of 1845 Mr Gladstone had to explain why he had resigned office as President of the Board of Trade. Sir Robert Peel had made up his mind to propose an increased grant to the Maynooth Catholic College in Ireland; and though Mr Gladstone did not personally disapprove of this, he had expressed different views in his book on Church and State, and retired rather than expose himself to the charge of interested motives. Before the year was out he had returned as Secretary for the Colonies in a reconstructed Ministry. The features in the political history of the first six months of the year consisted in the debates on the Maynooth grant (which was carried), in a Budget which made a further step in a Free Trade direction, and in debates and legislation on Scottish questions, which included the Bank Act and the Poor Law Act. The passing of the latter Act was preceded by a report which threw painful light on many aspects of Scottish poverty.

As the winter approached a critical situation arose. There had been a cold, damp summer and a poor harvest generally, rather better, however, in the Highlands than in the rest of the country. Towards the end of autumn a potato famine was seen to be imminent. Disease on an extensive scale had appeared at home and abroad, most of all in Ireland, where a large and congested population depended on potatoes for their food supply. Distress sprang up almost at once, and threatened to spread to an alarming extent. Peel saw that corn must be admitted duty free. He made the proposal at a Cabinet meeting on the 1st of November, but found support only from three of his colleagues, Lord Aberdeen, Sir James Graham, and Sir Sidney Herbert. On 22nd November Lord John Russell published a



letter declaring in favour of free trade in corn. On 8th December Sir Robert Peel tendered his resignation, and Lord John Russell was asked to form a Government. He failed to do so, chiefly because Earl Grey declined to serve with Lord Palmerston; but even if this had not happened, Lord John could have done little without a dissolution of Parliament, and after that might have found the opposing forces too strong for him. The result was that Peel returned to office with a free hand, and supported by all his colleagues in the Cabinet except Lord Stanley, whom Mr Gladstone succeeded at the Colonial Office.

The year was remarkable for the extraordinary rush of railway schemes, involving hundreds of millions of capital. Warning voices were heard, but were little heeded. In the Northern Counties we had schemes for railways from Inverness to Perth, from Elgin to Inverness, from Aberdeen to Inverness, from Inverness northwards through Ross-shire, and as far as Wick and Thurso. The trunk lines were to be supplied with branches. None of these projects came to fruition at the time, but the leading routes were adopted in subsequent years. In 1845, however, hopes ran high, and there was enormous activity among lawyers, engineers, and promoters. Directors had the privilege of making their selection from the crowds of applicants for shares. It was while this excitement was fermenting that the potato famine fell on the country. The Northern Highlands escaped the visitation in 1845, and so did the coast of the Moray Firth. But in Perthshire, Fifeshire, Lanark, and some of the Southern Counties the crop suffered severely, and neither Forfarshire nor Aberdeenshire was exempt. The notes that appear in the newspaper files on this subject and on the position of the Government, enable us to see the situation with contemporary eyes.

The year is memorable in other respects in the North. Notices had been issued for an extensive removal of small tenants in Ross-shire, including those of Glencalvie in Kincardine. The "*Courier*" was the first paper to draw attention to the serious state of affairs, and the subject was taken up in Parliament. The "*Times*" sent down a Commissioner, who reported his impressions. In our columns during the year there is a great amount of material, official and non-official which illustrates the condition of the people, not only at the time, but during the former part of the century.



Improvements in agriculture went eagerly forward at this time, the prospects being considered good. Scientific lectures fostered the movement as they are doing at present. There was also a good deal written about afforestation, especially in the way of exhibiting profitable results. A project was on foot for erecting a northern lunatic asylum by private effort, considerable sums being promised in subscriptions. Preparations were also being made at the close of the year for the administration of the new Scottish Poor Law Act.

An adjourned meeting of the Free Church Assembly, held at Inverness in August, proved a subject of great interest in the Highlands.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

January 1.—Lieutenant-Colonel Macpherson, youngest son of Mr Lachlan Macpherson, Ralia, Badenoch, died on 16th October in Ceylon. He entered the army as ensign in 1808, and served in the Peninsular war and in Burmah. "This officer was the first to enter the tower of the Castle of Badajoz, and although badly wounded at the escalade, climbed up the flagstaff and captured the French colour, and was desired by the late Sir Thomas Picton to present it to the Duke of Wellington. In consequence he received the personal thanks of these two great generals." General Stewart of Garth says that on this occasion Macpherson headed the forlorn hope, "and planted a soldier's red jacket on the crest of the enemy's citadel."—The same issue records the death at Creich, in Sutherland, of Lieut.-Colonel Campbell, an officer who fought at Corunna and in the Peninsular war under Wellington. He was a native of Halkirk, in Caithness. "It is a most remarkable fact that although engaged during service in about thirty battles he never received a single scar. Once a ball penetrated his saddle, and on another occasion a ball went through his cap, and in neither instance did 'he least injury to him."

January 8.—Dense fogs prevailed throughout the greater part of England and Scotland, but were "almost unknown" in Inverness. During a frost which had just passed away Loch-indorb had been frozen over.—Lord Lovat was



employing a teacher in Strathglass to instruct the people in the elements of agricultural chemistry.

January 22.—At a meeting of Academy directors, the rector, Mr Gray, resigned office, as he had been appointed to the Chair of Natural Philosophy in Marischal College, Aberdeen. Legal action had been threatened against the Town Council for non-payment of its contribution to the Academy. A compromise was now approved of, namely, that the Council should pay £70 a year and an annuity of £11 heritably secured as the interest of arrears.

Ibid.—Sir Colin Mackenzie, Bart. of Kilcoy, died at Belmaduthy in his 64th year. "He discharged the duties of Vice-Lieutenant and Convener of the county of Ross in a manner that secured the approbation of all parties." The next issue states that his remains were interred at Killearnan, and that the funeral was attended by fully four thousand persons.

Ibid.—Lime-works were in operation at Easter Moniack, the product of which was certified to be good both for agricultural and building purposes.—A fresh series of extracts begins from the Wardlaw Manuscript.

January 29.—Illicit distillation showed some signs of reviving. "It appears that there are still parties who roam among the rocks making a livelihood by defrauding the revenue and evading the law."

February 5 and 12.—There was a good deal of comment on the resignation by Mr Gladstone of the office of President of the Board of Trade. He is represented by the London correspondent as Sir Robert Peel's "best ally in the House of Commons—his right hand man—the exponent and advocate-in-chief of his commercial policy." The resignation was due to the Prime Minister's intention to increase the grant to Maynooth College, Ireland. Long articles appear in these and subsequent issues on the condition and claims of the poor.

February 12.—Dr Allan, Forres, had propounded a plan for penny receipt stamps, and expanded his scheme into a proposal for abolishing the existing system of taxation, "substituting in its place direct taxation on the money every man receives." The phrase "tariff reform" was in common use at this time.

February 19.—Sir Robert Peel's Budget was



liberal and important. It swept off taxes that yielded a revenue of £3,338,000, including a reduction of about three halfpence per pound on sugar, and the entire abolition of the duties on cotton, wool and glass, on sales by auction, on coal, and on various minor articles.

**Ibid.**—"Our readers are aware that the parish of Daviot has now been vacant for several years, with the exception of a short period, during which it was filled by Mr Clark, who, in May last, was called to Dunoon. We are happy to be able to report that the vacancy has at length been supplied, the Presbytery of Inverness, as patrons *jure devoluto*, having issued a presentation in favour of the Rev. P. Macichan, late of Canada."

**Ibid.**—The Rev. Dr Rose, of the High Church, Inverness, on the completion of the fiftieth year of his ministry, was presented with a tea and coffee service, salver, &c. The articles cost about £200.

**Ibid.**—A paper on the plantations of Lamington and Lairg, forming part of the forest of Balnagown, Ross-shire, was prepared for the Highland Society by Mr Grigor, solicitor, Invergordon. The two plantations covered 1200 acres imperial, and were founded about the year 1774 or 1775. It was calculated that the total return for the period came to £43,626, giving a gross return of £35 10s 5d per acre, and over the period of seventy years, affording a rent of 10s per acre for the land—"a result highly calculated to induce proprietors to plant their uplands even with Scots fir."

**February 26.**—A meeting was held at Elgin to promote a scheme for the construction of a railway between Elgin and Inverness. Opinion was in favour of it in other northern towns. An Inverness county meeting resolved to petition in favour of a line from London to York, which was known as the "Direct Northern Railway," and was considered preferable to other schemes.

**March 5.**—The duel between Mr Disraeli and Sir Robert Peel had begun. The London correspondent describes the scene when Mr Disraeli taunted the Prime Minister on his supposed defection from Canning; and applied to him the memorable taunt that the right hon. gentleman caught the Whigs bathing and walked away with their clothes.



"This felicitous expression was caught up by the House at once, and roars on roars of laughter followed." Peel declined to reciprocate personalities. "I have no intention of adopting such a course, but if I had I must say that the hon. gentleman possesses a great advantage over me, possessing as he does so much leisure to prepare his sudden attacks." The correspondent observes that Peel spoke with much feeling, "but with none of those backward glances at the Tory benches that used to be so successful in days of yore. That day has gone by."

**Ibid.**—The publication of extracts from the Wardlaw Manuscript had "revived a sort of antiquarian zeal in the north." One of the results was that Mr Robertson of Inshes submitted to the editor a large mass of papers, the collections of the family from 1448, from which he was allowed to make gleanings. The articles based on these papers extend over two issues. They include many items of interest.

**March 12.**—Skye was interested in what was called Highland guano, consisting of considerable quantities of goat and sheep dung found in caves and crevices of rocks on the farm of Scorrybreck. The application of this manure had proved very successful, and only small doses were required.

**March 19.**—The project of erecting a lunatic asylum for the use of the five Northern Counties was again under consideration. Northern proprietors promised handsome subscriptions. A sum of £2200 had been subscribed.

**Ibid.**—In course of a fight with native tribes in Kolapore, a brave young officer, Lieut. Campbell, of the 3rd Europeans, was shot in a narrow defile choked with bushes. He was at some distance from his men. When they were able to reach him they found his body defended by a single rifleman of the 16th Native Infantry ((Madras), who had kept the enemy at bay for half-an-hour. The tribesmen were in the habit of mutilating the dead, and the gallant Sepoy was determined to save Campbell's body from outrage.

**March 26.**—Mr Disraeli declared at this time that in his opinion "Protection appeared to be in about the same condition as Protestantism in 1828." He considered the Conservative Government to be "an organised hypocrisy."



Mr Morrison, the member for Inverness, introduced resolutions into the House of Commons on the necessity for establishing some control as to prices over railway companies. Prospectuses are advertised by the promoters of the Inverness and Elgin Railway, and by "the Great North of Scotland Railway," on behalf of a line between Aberdeen and Inverness. The Board of Trade had reported in favour of the line from Aberdeen to the South. *Ibid.*—Recently there died at Hedgefield, Inverness, Lieut.-Colonel William Mackay, late of the 68th Light Infantry. In this issue a sketch is given of his career. He joined the army as an ensign in 1803, and went through the Walcheren expedition and the Peninsular war. In an action which preceded the battle of Salamanca, Mackay displayed extraordinary valour and had a remarkable escape. Napier in his History says—"In this skirmish an officer of the 68th, Mackay, being suddenly surrounded, refused to surrender, and fighting singly against a multitude, received more wounds than the human frame was thought capable of sustaining, yet he still lives to show his honourable scars." Our paragraph states that the scars were indeed numerous and severe. "The brave officer received no less than twenty-two bayonet wounds, one of which entered his body below the heart and passed through his ribs; by another attack he was rendered powerless, the bayonet passing through his face and carrying off part of the jaw and teeth. His recovery was slow and doubtful, but Colonel Mackay was afterwards employed with his regiment in America, and continued in the 68th until his retirement on half-pay in 1821."

*Ibid.*—The London correspondent writes—"The deputation from your good town, whom you have sent up to push the affair of the Grampian railway, are progressing manfully in their labours. Immediately upon their arrival they put themselves in communication with some of the most influential men in the railway world, from whom, I am authorised to say, both they and their scheme met with a most favourable reception. I can state, too, upon the highest authority, that the deputation are confident that, in the course of a week, every share in the undertaking will be subscribed for. The



Great North of Scotland line is getting to be a favourite one in the share market. This is the last day for receiving applications for shares, and the speculators are pouring them in rapidly." A paragraph states that the capital stock of the Inverness and Elgin Railway had been subscribed for to the amount of £2,193,040, being £1,893,000 above the required capital!

April 9.—Peel's bill for increasing the Maynooth grant to £30,000 was approved on the first reading by a majority of 102. It was obvious that this settled the principle.

Ibid.—Railway schemes remain in the front. The Inverness and Perth Railway had been ushered in with the support of an array of influential names, "which insure it undoubted success." The advice is given to lodge prompt application for shares. "London has demanded one-half of the capital, and the proprietors of the Caledonian and Scottish Central Railways have so deep an interest in the project that we believe not more than ten or twelve thousand shares can be reserved for the general Scottish public." An Aberdeen paper states that the applications for the shares of the Great North of Scotland were so numerous that only one-seventh could be granted.

April 16.—There was a proposal to establish railway communication between Inverness and Tain. Meantime the steamer "Duchess of Sutherland" was conducting a satisfactory trade between the North and London. "The last trip of the 'Duchess' carried to London a goodly cargo of Highland products—49 fine large cattle of the Highland and shorthorn breeds, 230 sheep, 220 pigs, 100 packages of dead meat, and some fine ponies, with a vast quantity of eggs, haddocks, lobsters (from Burghead), and several boxes of salmon. The demand for dried haddocks seems greatly on the increase, and in a former passage the 'Duchess' took no less than 300 barrels. By calling at the intermediate ports of Cromarty, Invergordon, and Burghead, the vessel affords facilities for different districts disposing of their surplus produce, and the people are becoming keenly alive to the advantages they thus possess. Burghead is still the staple port for fat beasts, but our Ross-shire friends



are rapidly expanding their operations, and their stock is well known and highly prized in Smithfield. The rearing of pigs for the South may be pronounced almost a new trade in many of our Highland localities. The people used to entertain a sort of Jewish antipathy to pork, and to the whole genus swine; but they now find that the pig is by no means an unproductive consumer, and that he is both easily fed and easily sold. In the matter of passengers, too, the 'Duchess' is a public advantage to the North. In three days, for the cost of exactly £4 3s, the tourist is conveyed from Inverness to London—his table is furnished sumptuously; his attendance as good as can be enjoyed at any hotel; and his accommodation altogether of a superior class. We venture to prophecy that at no distant day the traffic along this line will call for another vessel."

Ibid.—"We understand that upwards of four hundred tenants have this year received notices to quit in the counties of Ross and Cromarty—making at the average rate of five individuals to a family a population of probably not less than two thousand persons. Whether this extensive number of removals is, partly or in whole, mere shiftings of the population for the purpose of improved arrangements, or the entire ejection of small tenants, we have not ascertained, but the fact of the notices being served is undoubtedly correct."

April 23.—"The Maynooth Bill occupied the House of Commons all last week." This was the debate on the second reading. Among the memorable speeches was that of Macaulay, who attacked Sir Robert Peel, but supported the bill. It was in this speech that he used the expression, "Exeter Hall sets up its bray." He said that he supported the bill "regardless of the obloquy that may be poured upon me, and regardless of the risk I well know I run of losing my seat in Parliament. Obloquy I will meet; as to my seat in Parliament, I will never hold it by an ignominious tenure, and I am sure I could never lose it in a more honourable cause." The second reading was carried by a majority of 147, and the bill afterwards passed through the further stages.



April 30.—Sir Robert Peel introduced his measure dealing with Scottish banking. It had been anticipated with some apprehension, but people breathed freely when they found that the issue of one-pound notes was to be retained.

Ibid.—Mr Peter Wilson, Professor of Natural Philosophy and Mathematics in Anderson's College, Glasgow, had been appointed Rector of the Inverness Royal Academy. The appointment was made on the joint recommendation of Lord Moncrieff and Lord Cockburn, who had been requested to make the selection.

May 7.—In a previous issue there was a quotation from the "Elgin Courant" stating that a destructive disease had broken out among grouse, and that by the sides of streams they were often found lying dead in pairs. The editor of the "Courier" having made inquiry on the subject, observes that the disease, whatever it might be—and it was possibly tape-worm—affected only a limited area. "Except on one little spot, where a few dead birds are reported to have been found, adjoining that part of the country where the disease is destructive, all our information goes to prove that a fuller or better conditioned stock has seldom been seen on the lower grounds."

Ibid.—A Berwick paper announces the death of Mr James Balfour, who, by the purchase of the Strathconan property, became connected with the North. "He was a younger son of the family of Balbirnie, in Fife, and early in life proceeded to India as a merchant, where he accumulated a large fortune, and returned to this country in 1813. In 1816 he purchased the estate of Whittinghame from Mr Hay of Drummelzier, and at different times afterwards he bought the estate of Blackcastle, in East Lothian; Plendergast and Butterdean, in Berwickshire; Balconie, Fifeshire; and Strathconan, in Ross-shire—so that for land alone he must have paid from £700,000 to £800,000, and has died, without doubt, one of the wealthiest commoners of Scotland. Mr Balfour married in 1814 a daughter of the Earl of Lauderdale, by whom he had seven children, of whom four survive their parent. J. M. Balfour, Esq., M.P. for the Haddington District of Burghs, is heir to his immense landed property. Mr Balfour was twice in Parliament as representative for the county of Haddington."



Ibid.—An account of a "Highland gathering" in London, a dinner in aid of the funds of the Highland School Society, is an interesting sketch, still worth reading. The Marquis of Lorne (late Duke of Argyll) was in the chair.

May 14.—The Poor Law (Scotland) Bill was introduced, and was received with mixed feelings. The necessity for a poor-rate was questioned in many quarters. Mr Dempster of Skibo argued that the burden would amount to 37 per cent. on the income of Highland proprietors. His fears, however, were thought to be groundless, or at least exaggerated.

Ibid.—There is a notice of a memoir of Thomas Simpson, the Arctic explorer, written by his brother, Alexander Simpson. He was a son of the parish schoolmaster of Dingwall, who was also a magistrate of the burgh.

Ibid.—Mr Lewis Maciver, known as of Gress, in the Lews, died on the 26th ult., at the age of 63. He was a leading man in the island, remarkable for energy and enterprise. His funeral was the occasion of a large gathering of islanders, who carried the bier a distance of eight miles to the burying-ground. The late Evander Maciver, Scourie, was one of his sons.

Ibid.—General Sir Lewis Grant had purchased the old castle and grounds at Forres. In course of digging, workmen came upon portions of the old wall at eighteen inches below the surface. According to the "Forres Gazette," the foundations showed that the Castle was of much larger extent than was indicated by the remains above ground. "The ancient foundation-wall, which is of run lime and small stones, yet as firm as a rock, extends on the north in a direct line from east to west, 26 yards. It is 6 feet thick, and has included an area of 200 by 100 feet. On the outside of this was a parapet wall between 4 and 5 feet high; and at 20 feet distant, still further to the outside, another parapet of 3 or 4 feet; a third wall skirted the moat which surrounded the castle, access to which probably was obtained by a draw-bridge at the east. The western approach has been defended by strong angular turrets at the corners, as shown by the foundations. The old orchard, in close proximity to the castle at the south,



was four acres in extent, and till within the last half-century was well furnished with fruit trees, some of them so extremely old as to warrant the supposition that they had furnished dessert to the royal table! The grounds were also intersected with ash, elm, and sycamore trees of a hoar antiquity, which were sold by the proprietor, and, along with others, cut down by a wood-merchant from Aberdeen fifty years ago, and the royal garden converted into an arable field. At the south-west corner the workmen employed levelling the present public road some years ago dug up immense quantities of bones, intermingled with the antlers of various kinds of deer, which had doubtless afforded sport to our native sovereigns in the royal forests of Stronakaltry and Tarnaway."

**Ibid.**—The same issue records the discovery of a stone cist, composed of six rough flags, in a sand-bank about three feet below the surface on the farm of Cuthberton of Delnies, two miles west of Nairn. The coffin was five feet six inches long, three feet broad, and two feet deep, and contained a quantity of bones and two small urns "elaborately ornamented." The bones included two skulls, which were supposed to be those of a male and female.

**May 21.**—Mr William Laidlaw, famous as the friend, factor, and amanuensis of Sir Walter Scott, died at Contin on the 18th inst. "He was the life and animating spirit of that interesting and classical property [Abbotsford] from 1817 till the death of Scott in 1832, when the curtain fell on what might be considered a brilliant pageant, or dream of the morning, ending abruptly in blackness and desolation. Mr Laidlaw afterwards removed to the North, where his two excellent and affectionate brothers have been long resident as tenants of large pastoral farms; and he was engaged successively as factor on the estates of Seaforth and Balnagown, both in Ross-shire. His health at length gave way, and he retired to Contin. His time was occupied in reading and studying botany, in which, as in most rural matters, he was a great enthusiast; but he declined all efforts to engage him in writing a domestic life of Scott, or record of his intimacy with him, for which he might seem to be peculiarly well



qualified. His thoughts and recollections, however, were seldom long absent from that memorable period of his life. He loved to dwell on the warm benevolence and kindness of his great friend, on his marvellous genius and unconquerable spirit, and one of the last sensations which death tore from the breast of William Laidlaw was the image of his beloved Abbotsford." Mr Laidlaw was 65 years of age. He was the author of a pathetic Scottish ballad, "Lucy's Flittin," which still finds a place in anthologies.

**Ibid.**—A column and a-half on forestry shows that the subject was then as full of interest as it is at the present day.—Professor Gray, on quitting Inverness Academy, was entertained to a dinner in the Caledonian Hotel.—Mr Evander Maciver, agent for the Caledonian Bank in Dingwall, had been appointed factor for the Duke of Sutherland at Scourie. He was succeeded at Dingwall by his younger brother, Mr Lewis Maciver, formerly of Liverpool.—Mr Dougal, who had recently become proprietor of Glenferness, on the banks of the Findhorn, was making many improvements. A new mansion-house was nearly finished.

**May 28.**—Attention had been directed in the House of Commons to the statement that four hundred tenants in the shires of Ross and Cromarty including with their families probably four thousand persons, had been served with summonses of removal. The Home Secretary, Sir James Graham, while he condemned such proceedings, expressed the hope that the statement was greatly exaggerated. The editor says there was no exaggeration, but rather an under-statement. He gives lists of tenants and sub-tenants showing that the total number was 430, but adds that he understands that a large proportion of those who had been summoned were to be continued in their farms. He also gives a history of some former evictions, or proposals of eviction, including the case of Glen-Calvie, in the parish of Kincardine, in Ross-shire. The first attempt at evicting these tenants occurred in 1842. There were only four tenants recognised by the landlord, but there were fourteen sub-tenants, making up a population of about ninety souls. They were warned out again in 1844, and this year (1845) they had to quit



their possessions. The "Times" sent down a correspondent to inquire into the whole situation, and this issue contains his letter on the case of Glen-Calvie, on which he writes with indignation. There were no arrears of rent on the property. The proprietor was absent with his regiment in Australia.

June 11.—The Admiralty surveys of the Beaully Firth and the approaches to Inverness had just been completed by Captain Otter and the officers of the Sparrow. "It appears there are two channels leading up as far as a shoal called the Meikle Mee, extending out from Craigton Cottage. On parts of this there are not more than three feet of water. The Channel then becomes so contracted and uneven for a short distance as to render it difficult for vessels to pass drawing more than nine feet at low water. From this point we have deep water all the way up to Kessock Road. The narrow part of the Channel could be dredged at comparatively little expense; but at all events a few buoys should be put down."

Ibid.—There was a proposal at this time to sell the picture of the Holy Family belonging to the Inverness Royal Academy. The picture was valued at sums varying from £500 to £3000. The directors, however, adopted a resolution declaring that it would be illegal to sell the picture. It is stated that the gentleman who presented it to the Academy was Mr Clark, a native of Inverness, and an artist by profession, who was sent to Italy by Sir James Grant of Grant and other kind patrons. He also left £680 to the Academy. The picture is now in the Town Hall.

June 18.—"A curious half-witted creature, James Mackay, but better known by the soubriquet 'Bobby All'—a name familiar to every man, woman, and child in Inverness, died here last week." Anecdotes are given illustrative of habits and his tenacious memory. Bobby on one occasion hid himself on board a ship, and had a free passage to London and back again.

Ibid.—On the previous Thursday the Free Presbytery of Inverness inducted the Rev. George Mackay, formerly of Clyne, to the pastorate of the Free North Church. The Presbytery also appointed a committee to make arrangements for a meeting of the



General Assembly, to be held at Inverness on the 21st of August.

*Ibid.*—The case of Glen-Calvie was referred to in the House of Commons. The following is the official version as given by the Lord Advocate:—"The proprietor of that estate was at present residing abroad, in New South Wales, and the estate was under the care of managers in his absence; and though he (the Lord Advocate) was by no means disposed to approve or defend the system of a wholesale removal of a tenantry from a property of this kind—that was, where the tenantry held small possessions—yet he must say that the result of the inquiries he had made with regard to this case were such as to satisfy him that greatly exaggerated statements had gone abroad with regard to it. It was not a case, in the first place, where the persons were suddenly ejected, because negotiations had been going on between the landlord and his tenantry for a period of two years with regard to their removal, and arrangements for that purpose had been concluded to their satisfaction, and they declared a year ago that they would remove at a certain period. On the faith of that the land was let to another person, and it was therefore impossible that the landlord could continue them when they changed their minds and desired to remain. Further, the landlord, as he had been informed, had given them an abatement of rent, and had made some of the payments in money, and had made them offers of assistance in the way of emigration if they chose to emigrate; and so far from their being in a state of destitution, £100 had been paid to some of the parties, as the value of the stock upon their lands, so that altogether the statement was greatly exaggerated. At the same time he did not defend this system of wholesale removal."

June 25.—The Rev. Mr Guthrie, Edinburgh, preached to a crowded congregation at the opening of the Free Church of Rosskeen. "The church is built in a very central part of the parish, on a site granted by Mr Macleod of Cadboll, whose name will be handed down to succeeding generations for his liberality towards the Free Church in the various parishes in which his property is situated."



July 2.—Mr Patrick Sellar publishes a letter and statement relating to the Sutherland evictions of 1814. He says that he left one-half of the farm taken by himself in possession of the old tenantry for four years, and that "in point of fact there were removed in 1814 only twenty-seven tenants and one tinker or caird, who had taken possession of a piece of extremely wild ground in a morass among the mountains," and who was regarded as a bad character. He gives particulars in order to support his contention that the ejectments, when they took place, were carried out with due consideration.

July 9.—There was a long debate on the bill for the amendment of the Scottish poor law, and the condition of Sutherland figured largely in it. The motion for going into Committee on the bill was carried by a majority of 43.

Ibid.—A bill was before the House of Commons proposing the abolition of religious tests in Scottish Universities, except in the case of theological professors. The Synod of Moray at a special meeting resolved to oppose the bill by every constitutional means.

Ibid.—A curious incident happened at Tain in connection with the summer communion services. The Gaelic services of the Free Church had been held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, in the old church-yard, but the minister was served with an interdict on Saturday evening prohibiting the Sunday services, and the seats were speedily transferred to a grass park in the vicinity of the Free Church. It seems that there had never been a bell in the Established Church, and that a dispute had occurred about the use of the town bell. At the Thursday services the bell, rung from the Established Church, had given annoyance to the people worshipping in the old church-yard, and the Magistrates, who belonged to the Free Church, ordered the kirk-officer either to ring the town bell for a short time or not at all. "Hence arose the interdict. One of the heritors applied for the interdict, being determined that if he could not have the use of the bell the people would be driven from the station in the vicinity."

Ibid.—The Inverness Town Council unanimously agreed to give the use of Bell's Park for the meeting of the Free Church Assembly to be



held in the town in August. They granted permission to erect a pavilion, and placed the class-rooms at the service of the Assembly.

July 16.—The second reading of the bill for abolition of tests in the Scottish Universities was discussed in the House of Commons. Mr Macaulay, in the absence of Mr Rutherford, took charge of the bill and delivered a powerful speech in its favour, attacking Ministers for opposing the measure. The bill was lost, but only by a majority of eight votes. "It gives us pleasure," says the editor, "to observe that both our county and burgh member (Mr Henry Baillie and Mr Morrison) voted together in favour of the repeal of tests."

Ibid.—Almost the whole of the fine mansion-house of Tulloch Castle, near Dingwall, with a large portion of its rich and valuable furniture, some family portraits and pictures, the library and other effects, was burned down on Monday, the 14th inst. The fire appears to have originated from a lighted candle left in a bedroom. The old castle or chateau of Tulloch was said by a correspondent to have been built originally in the reign of William the Lion, and to have been added to by several successive lairds, the main part in 1762. "The barony of Tulloch was in possession of Mr Davidson's maternal ancestors, the Baynes, from the twelfth century, and from these it came into his paternal ancestor's possession in 1752." The principal rooms, including the drawing-room, which was 50 feet long, 30 wide, and 20 high, were destroyed by the fire. The tower, the oldest part of the building, was reduced to ruin.

Ibid.—At the Inverness Wool Market the demand for sheep was brisk, but dull for wool. In Cheviot widders and lambs there was a rise of from 3s to 3s 6d per head as compared with the previous year; for ewes, the advance was smaller but considerable. The scale of figures quoted was as follows:—Cheviot widders, 23s to 33s; ewes, 13s to 20s; lambs, 8s to 13s. Cross widders, 22s to 26s 6d; ewes, 12s to 14s; lambs, 7s to 9s. Black-faced widders, 14s to 23s; ewes, 8s to 12s; lambs, 6s to 8s. In wool dealers were reluctant to give even last year's prices, and several Sutherland fleeces remained unsold.

Ibid.—A letter on the reports sent by the



"Times" Commissioner is written by a correspondent at Strathpeffer, who is certified as a practical agriculturist, well acquainted with the Northern Counties for more than forty years. It contains the following singular statement:—"I shall never forget a journey I made to Strathnaver in 1803 with two other men in charge of a lot of lambs. For two days the natives could furnish us with no kind of food, but new green potatoes and whisky, and this not from any churlish disposition on their part, for no people could be kinder than they were, but they had nothing else to give, nor do I believe there was a peck of meal at the time in the whole strath. Our poor dogs we had to support by cutting off and giving to them the tails of certain of the lambs, and had we not done this our dogs would have failed us entirely. Such was the destitution in Sutherland I was witness to in those days."

July 23.—The Marquis of Salisbury is reported to have purchased the island of Rum for the sum of £24,000 in order to form a shooting ground or deer forest. "The size of the island is about eight miles long and seven broad. In consequence of two great emigrations of the people in 1826 and 1828 the population was reduced from 400 to 100 or 130."

Ibid.—The new works on the Caledonian Canal were proceeding on a great scale. From 1500 to 1800 men were employed, with about 100 horses, and a great deal of complicated machinery. "The greater proportion of the labourers, we are happy to say, are natives of the Highlands—men of strong thews and sinews from Skye and other districts; the masons are chiefly from Morayshire, and the carpenters and others from Inverness and its neighbourhood."

Ibid.—A statement of facts "as to the past and present state of the estate of Sutherland, the Reay country, and Assynt," obviously a carefully compiled official communication, appears in this issue. It begins by stating that previous to 1811 "the people were generally subtenants to middlemen, by whom high rents, delivery of poultry, eggs, &c., and numerous personal services were exacted without payment, such as so many days' labour in harvest, spring, and other times, cutting and carrying peats, carrying stones for building, and re-



pairing parish and other buildings." Since 1811 "the people, with the exception of labourers, have all become immediate tenants to the landlord, paying lower rents than they did under their former condition, with exemption from delivery of poultry, &c., and released from all personal services." The reduction of rent amounted to as much as 36 per cent. in the parish of Farr. The statement speaks of the privations and poverty of former times, of the sums spent in relief, and latterly in building houses, farm steadings, churches, schools, and harbours, making roads, building bridges, running mail coaches, &c. "It may be safely stated that hardly any rent had been received from the estate since 1811." Many particulars are communicated, in order to show the comfort enjoyed at the time of publication as compared with the conditions twenty or thirty years before.

*Ibid.*—Mr Evander Maciver was entertained to a public dinner at Dingwall on his departure to become factor for the Duke of Sutherland at Scourie.

July 30.—Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, deputy-adjutant-general, Bombay, died on 31st May. He was a native of the parish of Laggan, and fifty-four years of age. He had served in Sweden, in the Peninsula, in the East and West Indies, and had fought at Waterloo.

August 6.—"Among our visitors [to Inverness] this season are Colonel and Major Burns, sons of the Scottish poet, who arrived here on Saturday last, accompanied by Mr Macdiarmid, of the 'Dumfries Courier.' The party have been on a tour in the Western Highlands, in which they visited Glencoe, Staffa, Iona, &c. A public dinner is to be given to these gentlemen this day (Wednesday) in the Caledonian Hotel, on the occasion of their being presented with the freedom of the town. The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council are entitled to the thanks of the community for their prompt and handsome conduct in thus awarding civic honours to the descendants of our great national poet. Colonel Burns returned to this country about two years since, after the long period of thirty-two years' uninterrupted service in the Madras army. His younger brother, Major Burns, retired in 1839, having been about twenty-



seven years in the company's service in the Bengal establishment." The report of the dinner is given in the next issue (August 13). It was held in the Caledonian Hotel, and was attended by about ninety persons. Provost Sutherland was in the chair, and in name of the Council presented the sons of Burns with the freedom of the town. Colonel Burns replied, and at a later stage Major Burns, in lieu of a speech (he said he was no speaker), sang his father's song in honour of his mother, "O' a' the airts the wind can blaw." Visits were paid to Kilravock Castle, Culloden battlefield, and the Falls of Foyers, all of which the poet had visited in 1787. "While standing on the Green Point at the Falls of Foyers, the descendants of Burns drank to the sons and daughters of Caledonia, as their father had done fifty-eight years before.

August 13.—The bill for amending the Scottish Poor Law received the Royal assent.—Professor Johnstone was again in the north giving lectures on agriculture at Inverness and other places.

Ibid.—There was a considerable increase in the letting of shootings this year. A list of over 100 is given. "The demand for places with from 5000 to 10,000 acres of moor has been beyond precedent."

August 20.—The visit of the "Times" commissioner to the north, discussions in Parliament, and the passing of the poor law bill, had directed attention to the condition of the Highlands. The editor acknowledges the sufferings of the Highland poor, but he thought that Englishmen familiar with the comforts of their own country forgot that there were different standards of subsistence. "Thus in most parts of the Highlands it is well known that few in the labouring classes, or even of the small farmers—say those under £50 rent—ever taste animal food, with the exception of a salt herring, or the mutton of such sheep as are unfit for market; but live upon porridge of oatmeal, or potatoes, with or without a little milk or butter, as the case may be, and such other seasoning as the kail-yard may supply; while in England the labourer is seldom satisfied without his wheaten bread and bacon, or something equivalent in the way of food; and the farmer is proportionately



better off. . . . The wages of an able-bodied labourer in the northern districts does not exceed 1s 6d per day, and those of a girl or woman 6d to 7d; and it is not probable that the scale can rise; yet on these earnings are families brought up in tolerable comfort." A long article follows on the changes that had taken place in the Highlands during the century. It does not seem to be by the editor, as it gives a good deal of special information. Incidentally he mentions that in fifteen years a sum of from £200,000 to £300,000 had been laid out on the Sutherland estates.

August 23, 26, and 28.—There were three issues of the "Courier" within six days, two of them extra, in order to provide reports of the adjourned meeting of Assembly of the Free Church, held at Inverness. Long reports are given of the proceedings, which excited great interest. It is impossible to enter into details here, but we may quote some sentences from an article which appeared on 23rd August. "Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather the attendance has been unprecedentedly large. The pavilion [in Bell's Park] is constructed to contain about 3300 persons, and there has seldom been less than apparently 2500 present. Nearly one half of these are strangers from the south, the coaches and steamboats from Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen having been filled with parties proceeding to the Assembly. The exertions of the Committee to procure accommodation for so vast an influx of strangers have been highly successful, and we have heard various parties speak in terms of the warmest acknowledgment with respect to the reception they have experienced in Inverness. The absence of Dr Chalmers, the Marquis of Breadalbane, and Dr Gordon is deeply regretted, but the other leading members of the Free Church, Dr Candlish, Dr Cunningham, Mr Guthrie, Mr Begg, &c., in addition to the missionary clergymen and various distinguished laymen, could not fail of strongly arresting public attention. The eminent Principal of St Andrews, Sir David Brewster, the Hon. Fox Maule, and Mr Campbell of Monzie, appear to take a deep interest in the proceedings. . . . The Gaelic singing was an interesting novelty to part of the



audience. It is at once simple and solemn, and the melodies are characteristic of the antique solitary grandeur of our hills and glens." Dr Chalmers appeared at a later stage of the proceedings and delivered an eloquent address. The Assembly met on 21st August and rose on the 27th. The position of the Church in the Highlands, and the refusal in some places of sites, occupied one long sederunt. Touching reference was made to the death of Mr Mackenzie, minister of Tongue.

Ibid.—In the three issues the general state of the district is recorded. On the 23rd it is stated that the weather had been very wet, and the general complexion of the season was disastrous in the extreme. On the previous Wednesday there had been a terrible storm at sea, resulting at Wick in the loss of five lives and damage to boats and gear, estimated at £10,000.—A notice of the late Lady Gordon-Cumming of Altyre, who was greatly interested in geology, is quoted from the "North British Review."—The issue of the 26th records a centennial celebration of the rising of the clans at Glenfinnan in August 1745. Between four and five hundred people were present, and the celebration took the form of a luncheon, procession, and games. Mr Macdonald of Glenaladale made arrangements for the gathering, and Mr Eneas Macdonald of Morar presided at the luncheon.

Sept. 3.—Queen Victoria was at this time on a tour in Germany. The previous issue mentions her visit to the Wartburg, where Luther lived for a time, her journey to Coburg, and the meeting of royalties. Her Majesty stayed at Rosenau, near Coburg, where Prince Albert was born. The present issue gives further particulars of the journey and the residence at Rosenau. A quotation from the "Examiner" is as follows:—"There cannot be a simpler or plainer person than the King of Prussia. He was quite perplexed what to do with all the people who came with the Queen. There were not waggons enough at Cologne to carry them to Bruhl, and so Lord Aberdeen and a crowd of Ministers and aide-de-camps were thrust into third-class carriages with gentlemen who had pipes as big as themselves. Apropos of pipes, the chief magistrate of Bonn, who led the procession in



*pontificabilis*, smoked his pipe as he proceeded, and therefore led the way in a cloud, quite like a fabulous personage. The Queen was highly amused at this civic Jupiter."

**Ibid.**—Further particulars are given of the recent storm, which had resulted, it was now found, in the loss of eight lives in Caithness and damage of the most extensive kind. "On the coast of Caithness alone upwards of ninety boats have been shattered to pieces, and about half as many drift of nets have been lost; and nearly 500 industrious men have been thrown out of employment, during the fishing, involving a loss of nearly £10,000, falling chiefly on poor fishermen." Committees were appointed to give assistance.

**Sept. 10.**—Mr James Matheson of Achany, M.P., was entertained to a public dinner at Stornoway, on his arrival, after becoming proprietor. Mr Roderick Morison, banker, was in the chair, and the company numbered about a hundred. In reply to the toast of his health, Mr Matheson said that his first effort would be to draw forth the energies of Highlanders. "With this view I made up my mind to engage a Highland factor (Mr Scobie), and employ Highlanders on all occasions when practicable; and I have every reason to congratulate myself on adopting such a course. It is true we hope to benefit by the skill and great experience of our southern friends, such as Mr Smith of Deanston and Mr Alexander of Agnish; but I am anxious that the main improvements should rest with our own people, and that the executive should be in their hands." Education was to form a prominent feature in his schemes.

**Ibid.**—In spite of the unfavourable weather in the early autumn, crops were now in excellent condition, and the harvest was abundant. The sporting season had also been successful.

**Sept. 17.**—"On the night between the 2nd and 3rd inst., the wind blowing freely from the north-west, a shower of fine impalpable dust, evidently of volcanic origin, fell upon the whole mainland of Orkney. The dust fell in such quantities as to cover the whole island, and admit of being easily gathered. It is presumed to have been caused by an eruption of Mount Hecla, in Iceland."

**Ibid.**—Quotations from English papers state



that distemper among potatoes prevailed to a great extent in the south of England, though it had hardly reached the midland counties, and in the north of England was unknown. The disease had, however, attacked the tubers in some parts of Scotland. In the next issue it is stated that the ravages of the disease had not extended to this quarter.

Sept. 24.—A vessel of 170 tons was launched at Beaulieu.—A shark measuring  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length was captured at Lossiemouth. This was the second capture of the kind within a few weeks.—The potato blight had extended to Dumfriesshire and Ayrshire, the loss being calculated at £50,000.

October 1.—An enormous capture of whales had taken place at Quendall Bay in Shetland. The triumphant Zetlanders gloated over a prize of 1540 whales. "The history of whale catching in Shetland does not afford an instance of such an extensive capture in such an incredibly short space of time."

October 8.—Railway projects had been numerous during the previous session of Parliament, and the ardour for new schemes continued unabated. Attention is directed afresh to the proposed railway between Inverness and Perth. "Our southern readers can have but a faint idea of the crowds of tourists who annually, even now, frequent the Highlands; and who can calculate the increase of those pleasure and health-making visitors? This, however, is only one source of traffic. It is well known that vast flocks of sheep and herds of cattle are, for six months every year, sent south from the north to the south country markets, all of which could be conveyed by rail." The line was also expected to foster manufactures, and confer other improvements. — The Northern Meeting was held the previous week, but presented no special feature.

Ibid.—"We are glad to see that Mr J. Gowie has just issued a map or chart of Culloden Moor and part of the adjacent country, on which are laid down the different roads leading to the field of battle, the positions and lines of march of the respective armies before the engagement; also ancient tumuli, druidical circles, vitrified forts and other objects of interest to strangers. The map will form an excellent companion to parties visiting the



field. It is accurate and complete, and very neatly engraved. The references are numerous and distinct, and from these and the 'enlarged plan of the order of battle' any person can trace out the position of the different armies and regiments, and thus people in imagination the solitary field with all the busy strife and varied scenes and emotions of that eventful day."

Ibid.—The Rev. Simon Fraser, Kilmorack, died on the 26th ult., at the age of eighty. He was much respected in the district.

Ibid.—A man from Portmahomack was tried at Tain for inflicting a wound with a knife on the forehead of an old woman, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. He believed that the woman had bewitched him and his nets, and the rest of the crew were not willing to go out with him while he was under the curse. Accordingly he took an opportunity to cut her "above the breath," believing that with the first drop of blood the woman would lose the power of harming him.

October 15.—A fire occurred on the previous Wednesday (the 8th), destroying the greater part of the pile of buildings in Inverness, extending from Inglis Street to Theatre Lane, including a shop and extensive premises in Hamilton Place. The fire broke out about half-past three in the morning in an upper flat, a tailor's workshop. There was no wind, but unfortunately there was delay in procuring the fire-engines, and when they arrived they were found to be utterly inefficient. No less than thirteen families, comprising sixty-two individuals, were deprived of their homes. No lives were lost, but there were narrow escapes.

October 22.—The weather was stormy during the previous week, and on Monday the wind rose to a hurricane. "On the Castlehill it seems impossible to stand or work, unless under cover of the building." There was a good deal of damage, but not of a serious kind.

October 29.—The newspaper columns continue to be full of railway projects. This issue contains the prospectuses of various schemes, including the proposed Inverness and Perth and Inverness and Elgin railways, and preliminary proposals for lines through Ross-shire, and even to Wick and Thurso. There is also a prospectus of an Inverness and Northern Counties Insurance Company.



November 5.—The failure of the potato crop in Ireland was now known to be extensive, almost every district of the country being affected. A Cabinet Council had been held at which it was believed the situation had been discussed. In the North of Scotland the potato crop was stated to be fully an average, and wholly free from disease. There was a little in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, and a good deal in Fifeshire. The disease was severe in Belgium and Denmark, and had also appeared in Sweden. It was reported that the crop had suffered badly in Canada.

*Ibid.*—A civil trial arose out of one of the Church riots which occurred in 1843. Five men had been confined for over six hours in a bank safe, cell, or chamber, in Invergordon, and four of them now claimed damages for illegal imprisonment. The bank safe was described as a place of security for papers, 9 feet 11½ inches in length, by 3 feet 8½ inches in breadth and 6 feet 11¼ inches in height. "There was no window in the safe, no aperture for ventilation, no air-hole of any kind, with the exception of a crevice three-eighths of an inch wide, between the bottom of the door and the floor." The case was raised against John Macbean, messenger, superintendent of the Inverness-shire county police, to whom the warrant of apprehension was entrusted, and John Finlayson, criminal officer in Dingwall, his assistant. It was admitted that no injury had resulted to the men from their confinement, and it was proved that Mr Macbean, who was a careful officer, had not himself put them into the small apartment. Nevertheless, he was considered responsible. The action was tried before a jury in Edinburgh, with the Lord Justice-Clerk on the bench. "The result of half-an-hour's deliberation by the jury was to find that Mr Macbean was not present when the men were put into the safe, but that he knew they were there, and thereafter they awarded against him £50 damages to each of the four. They simply censured Finlayson for not remonstrating with Macbean."

November 12.—A communication from the Long Island states that extensive improvements



has been going forward on Colonel Gordon's estates there. "These properties extend over Benbecula, South Uist, and Barra. Roads are formed, lakes drained, flood-embankments raised, and waste plains made arable. The allotment system is also extended—the manufacture of kelp, the cod and ling fishing, the improvement of stock, the introduction of hemp and lint, and various other measures of amelioration, are well worthy of notice and imitation. The whole is managed by native skill and industry (the proprietor encouraging, with an evident solicitude for their welfare, every effort of his Highland tenantry), with the exception of one or two experienced agriculturists, introduced by Colonel Gordon. Under their guidance several hundred acres of morass and drift land have been converted into arable fields, yielding heavy crops of grain and hay." It is stated that no fewer than fifty ploughs were present at a ploughing match held on a field of South Uist in the end of August.

November 19.—The movement for erecting a lunatic asylum in the neighbourhood of Inverness had made remarkable progress. The subscribed funds amounted to £4700. The committee thought that steps should be taken for the erection of an asylum without delay. There was, however, considerable difficulty in the negotiations for a site.

November 26.—The famine which appeared to be approaching in Ireland was causing apprehension. Nothing was yet known as to the intentions of Ministers, and a cloud rested on the public mind. "Railway speculation is in abeyance—scrip shares unsaleable, and the best made lines depressed beyond their due value. The 'Times,' with the aid of Mr Spackman, an accountant, has been still further deepening the alarm and dejection of shareholders by publishing a list of all the schemes completed, constructing and projected, giving a total of 1428 railways, requiring a capital of seven hundred millions sterling! The new projects alone amount to a cost of five hundred and sixty-three millions. Many of these, however, will be withdrawn, and many amalgamations have already taken place. Still, the very uncertainty attending these projects is well calculated to excite embarrassment."



*Ibid.*—"A sale of wood took place here yesterday, which forcibly illustrates the value of plantations. The quantity sold was 76 imperial, or 60½ Scots acres, of fir wood on the estate of Tarradale, Ross-shire, and the price was £2360, or £39 per acre. The plantation is just forty-two years old; and if we reckon the thinnings for the last twenty years at £14 per acre, the land has produced £1 5s per acre during the whole period it has been under wood. What adds to the remarkable result is that the plantation disposed of was by no means extraordinary for growth."

*Ibid.*—"We are sorry to find that the potato murrain is gaining ground. The disease is yet abroad, and extending over the three kingdoms, and no human agency can foresee to what extent the pestilence may spread. . . . We are glad to say that in the whole of the seven Northern Counties there is no mention of the potato distemper, with the exception of one trifling instance in Sutherland, where it is stated to have appeared, but not to such an extent as to cause great alarm."

December 3.—Lord John Russell's letter to the electors of the city of London advocating a repeal of the Corn Laws appears in this issue. He had previously been in favour of a fixed duty, but thought it was no longer worth while to contend for it. The duty at the time was 15s. Cabinet Councils had been held the previous week, but their deliberations were still a secret.

*Ibid.*—"The plans, sections, and books of reference for the Inverness and Perth railway had now been completed and duly lodged.—The potato disease had appeared in the island of Lewis. In Fifeshire the potatoes were almost totally destroyed, and the disease had made great ravages in Perthshire.—Two columns are devoted to an article on the island of Barra and some of the neighbouring islands, "by a late resident." The writer mentions that the previous spring a report had been circulated that the inhabitants of St Kilda had been all carried off by an American slaver! Naturally the rumour caused great consternation. The article is continued in the next number.



December 10.—On the 4th inst the “Times” published the startling announcement that Ministers had resolved to summon Parliament in January for the purpose of proposing the total repeal of the Corn Laws. The statement led to a furious newspaper discussion. The London correspondent writes that “this has been an exciting, a bewildering week.”

*Ibid.*—The verdict of the jury in the Invergordon Bank Safe case came before a bench of judges in the Court of Session. The majority held that “as the defender had taken no exception in point of law, and had also departed from his motion for a new trial on the facts, the verdict must now be considered as final and acquiesced in by him.”

December 17.—“The Peel Ministry is at an end—not sapped by slow decay, but broken up by sudden and voluntary dissolution. With a majority in both Houses of Parliament, the favour of the Crown, and no decided hostility among the people, the State vessel has gone down in fair weather.” Sir Robert’s resignation took place on the 6th inst., and Lord John Russell was sent for by the Queen. Graham on the 12th inst. assured Lord John of the readiness of Peel and himself to support a measure for the “adjustment of the great question” of the Corn Law. See Graham’s life recently published.

*Ibid.*—The lighthouse at Chanonry Point was now nearly completed. It was considered “a chaste, substantial, and elegant erection.”

*Ibid.*—From the “Forres Gazette”—“Several old trees have lately been felled on the Brodie estate. Part of the trunk of a venerable ash, about 200 years old, and measuring four feet on the side, or sixteen feet in circumference, passed through this place the other day. We counted the rings of another Brodie ash, which gave indication of one hundred and fifty years of age. The timber of these trees is fresh throughout, and bears no marks of decay. There are others on the estate of a much larger size, and of nearly twice the age of those now cleared away.”

December 24.—It was now becoming known that Lord John Russell had failed to form a Government. A member of the House of Commons writes to the “Courier” on the afternoon of Saturday, 20th inst. :—“It is quite



true that the Whigs, after accepting office two days ago, have this day finally renounced the attempt. They could not see their way how to overcome the Tory majority of ninety by a dissolution. Lord John has gone to Windsor to the Queen, and by a singular coincidence, Sir Robert Peel has gone down by the same train." Sir James Graham notes under date December 21—"Sir Robert Peel has undertaken the Government, and the Duke of Wellington in office cordially supports him, declaring that in his opinion 'it is no longer a question of measures but of Government itself.'"

December 31.—The return of Sir Robert Peel to office and the reconstruction of his administration was now announced. Lord Stanley resigned the seals of the Colonial Office and his seat in the Cabinet, and went into active opposition. The London correspondent writes—"The change, although numerically small, is yet intrinsically great. Lord Stanley resigns: Mr Gladstone succeeds. The proud, clever, and irascible aristocrat marches out, and the clever, able, and well-informed plebeian, marches in."

Ibid.—There is a summary of the schemes lodged by companies for railways in the northern counties. They were—1, The Great North of Scotland, 107 miles long, by way of Huntly and Keith to Elgin, Forres and Inverness. 2, The Perth and Inverness Railway, 130½ miles. It proposed to cross the river Findhorn at Dulsie. 3, The Inverness and Elgin Railway, with branches to Findhorn, Burghead, and Lossiemouth. The third scheme was amalgamated with the line from Perth to Inverness.



## No. V.

The year 1846 is memorable for the adoption of Peel's policy for the abolition of the Corn Laws and the extension of free trade in the case of manufactures; also for the calamitous famine in Ireland and the failure of the potato crop in the Highlands, which had mostly escaped the previous year. The debates in Parliament on the new policy were protracted and angry. Mr Disraeli, who had previously been a severe critic of Peel, sprang forward as the real leader of the Protectionists, although Lord George Bentinck, also a man of force and capacity, was the nominal chief. There was no choice but to pass Peel's measure, as he was supported by Whigs and Radicals, and by such Conservatives as saw no other alternative. His opponents, however, soon had their revenge. Ministers brought forward a Protection of Life Bill to strengthen their hands in Ireland, which was disturbed by outrage as well as by famine. This measure was obnoxious to the Liberal Opposition and to Irish members, and the Protectionists joined them. The Corn and Customs Bill passed the Lords on the 25th of June, and the same night Peel was defeated in the Commons on his Coercion Bill. The abolition of the corn duties was intended to be gradual, extending over three years. From the 1st of February 1849 the amount would fall to one shilling registration duty.

Before Peel's fall, news had come of the great battles in which Sir Hugh Gough, Sir Henry Hardinge, and Sir Harry Smith defeated the Sikhs in India, driving them back across the Sutlej. About the same time intelligence came of the settlement of the Oregon dispute with the United States. Lord John Russell was called upon to form the new administration, and became Prime Minister in a Whig Government.

In our local annals there are numerous subjects of interest. Potato riots on a serious scale occurred in Inverness in February. The potato failure in the Highlands was a widespread calamity, the results of which came to be more fully realised in the follow-



ing year. The railway mania was running its course with disastrous results. The formation of a railway between Inverness and Perth had to be postponed for seventeen years.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

January 7.—"In the island of Eigg, Dr Macpherson, the proprietor, has granted a site for a church and manse." This was in connection with the Free Church. The refusal of a site had long been a subject of dispute.

Ibid.—The horn and bones of a stag were found near the church of Dores, under nine feet of successive strata of gravel, the diluvium of the burn of Dores.—The old building known as Dunkinty House, Elgin, the manor place of the family of Innes of Dunkinty, was in course of removal. The house was built in 1688 by Stewart, Commissary of Moray and Commissioner for the Earl of Moray. The initials over the entrance were D. S., for David Stewart, and M. M., for Mary Meldrum, his wife.—The issue contains long extracts from the "Quarterly Review" on sport in the Highlands.

January 14.—"The number of projected railways that have deposited the necessary documents, contracts, &c., in the Private Bill Office is 721—about 57 less than those deposited with the Board of Trade. Other bubbles are expected soon to burst." Meanwhile the various railway projects in the North of Scotland were vigorously discussed. Another scheme mooted at this time was the construction of a bridge across the Meikle Ferry, between the coasts of Ross-shire and Sutherland. The cost was estimated at £10,000. It is stated that the fares at the ferry exceeded on both sides £400.—A long article appears on potato disease, with suggestions for securing sound seed.

Ibid.—Notes from the island of Harris are of interest. "The natives," we are told, "wear clothing entirely of their own manufacture. They dye their stuffs with an infusion extracted from some native plants; and as a number of the females are taught to ply the shuttle, they get up their coarse webs at a comparatively small expense."



January 21.—A crowded meeting was held in the Northern Meeting Rooms to pass resolutions and adopt petitions in favour of the repeal of the Corn Laws. Provost Sutherland was in the chair, and among the chief speakers were the Rev. Mr Clark, Rev. Mr Kennedy (of the Congregational Chapel), Rev. Mr Macconnochie, and Rev. Mr Scott. The petitions were to be presented to Parliament through Lord Lovat and the burgh member, Mr Morrison.

January 28.—Parliament opened on Thursday, 22nd inst. The great question at issue was the repeal of the Corn Laws and the adoption of Free-Trade. The Royal speech spoke of the "deficient supply of an article of food which forms the chief subsistence of great numbers of my people." This referred to the failure of the potato crop in Ireland. After the speeches of Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell in the House of Commons, Mr Disraeli opened his campaign against the Prime Minister. The editor attributed his attack to political animosity, but adds—"Mr Disraeli, however, says splendid and witty things—he has always some truth on his side—and the House applauds with a malicious pleasure those sallies of a rich, inflamed imagination." The London correspondent says—"Mr Disraeli was very clever, very bitter, and his æsthetical epigrams were as brilliant as their point was keen. His speech told amazingly. It gave utterance to the torrent of pent-up Tory wrath. It was admirable to listen to. Everybody but Peel enjoyed it; but you felt that after all Peel was in the right. Disraeli might be very well—in fact, he was very well—but he was fencing, Peel was fighting." The writer added that the one had intellectual power only, the other intellectual and moral power combined.

Ibid.—Mr Mackintosh of Raigmore died suddenly on the 25th inst. at his residence in the neighbourhood of Inverness. He was in his 75th year, and had spent part of his early life in India, where he founded a prosperous mercantile house. On his return home he became a zealous rural improver, and took an active part in all local questions connected with the town and county. The editor had



differed from him in matters of controversy, but he felt safe to say "that there never was a man who devoted more of his time and attention to objects in which he had no personal interest or advantage."

*Ibid.*—An outbreak of smallpox occurred in the town at this time. It was, however, not very severe, as the practice of vaccination had become general.

February 24.—The number contains an analysis of Sir Robert Peel's great scheme for the reform of the Corn Laws and the reduction or abolition of duties on manufactures. A letter is published from the Duke of Sutherland expressing approval of the policy of Ministers. "My own feeling," he says, "is in favour of the free current of national industry—of unfettered commerce—of purchase and sale generally, without excepting any trade on which the sustenance of the people depends." The London correspondent thinks it worthy of note that of the thirteen Cabinet Ministers five were Scotsmen, and all firm supporters of Free-trade policy. These were the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earls of Aberdeen, Haddington, and Dalhousie, and Mr Gladstone.

*Ibid.*—An aged widow named Mackenzie, who lived in the small island of Rhona, between Skye and Applecross, kept a lamp burning in her window at night to act as a beacon-light to mariners. "Many a cold and shivering seaman on landing has been indebted to her for warmth and sustenance." The case was accidentally discovered by a correspondent of the "Courier," and the Committee of Lloyds, as individuals, assisted by some other members, raised a contribution of £20 as a gift to the widow.

*Ibid.*—The season is recorded as remarkable. "Hardly any of the characteristics of winter have been experienced during the past three months, and now that we have entered into February, we are apparently to have a still longer period of mild weather. In the garden of Mr Black, plumber, there is a pear-tree already in leaf, and a cherry tree also far advanced." High tides, however, had occurred at Inverness and all round the coast.

*Ibid.*—A few further notes may be quoted from this issue. The estate of Aberarder, in the



county of Inverness, was purchased by Capt. Sutherland of Udale for £30,050.—A crowded public meeting in Inverness, which included many spirit dealers, resolved to petition Parliament against the sale of liquor on Sunday.—A great deal of discussion had taken place, both in committee and public meetings, within the previous fortnight, regarding the principle of assessment under the new poor-law. The community was divided on the question whether the rate should be on "means and substance," according to rent, or by an actual scrutiny of incomes; and in the end the Board of Administrators came to the conclusion to impose the assessment according to rent, subject to certain modifications, such as had been adopted in Aberdeen.

February 11.—In the previous issue a short paragraph recorded the beginning of opposition to the shipment of potatoes from the Thornbush, Inverness. Several potato-laden carts were turned back and conveyed out of the town—"a venerable dame leading the first horse with a spirit worthy of old Jenny Geddes." The present issue states that this opposition developed into a series of riots, which are described. The disturbance extended over several days. The windows of the Provost's house and of the houses of other prominent citizens were broken. The shipment of potatoes was prevented, one load being emptied on the pier, and the cart thrown into the river. Two hundred special constables were sworn in, and a detachment of the 87th Regiment brought up from Fort-George. A number of the leading rioters were arrested. At one exciting time the mob is said to have numbered 5000 persons. They were reinforced by navvies working at the canal. The riot arose from a fear of scarcity and high prices. Corn was said to be unsaleable, on account of the Ministerial measures, and potatoes were the only product that realised money to the farmer. A disturbance on a small scale also occurred at Nairn.—A meeting of agriculturists was held at Invergordon to petition against the abolition of the Corn Laws.

Ibid.—A candle factory in Inverness, belonging to Mr J. Forsyth, was destroyed by fire.—The lands of Millbank, Nairn, were exposed



to public roup in Edinburgh, and purchased by Colonel Findlay for £3200.

February 18.—The member for the county of Inverness, Mr Henry Baillie, took part in the debate in the House of Commons on the subject of the Corn Laws. Mr Baillie was personally opposed to the Government scheme; but the House, he considered, had only the choice of two alternatives—they must either accept the compromise now offered them or throw out the present Administration to make room for another equally pledged to the abolition of all duties on the importation of foreign corn. Accordingly, he concluded by stating that he would support the proposition of the Government from a conviction that in doing so he was supporting the best interests of the British Empire.

*Ibid.*—Quiet was restored in the town of Inverness. Thirty-nine rioters had been committed to prison, but of these nineteen were liberated and twenty remained for trial. A provision Society was formed to purchase potatoes and dispose of them to the poorer classes of the town. Potatoes in pits which had been recently opened in Lochcarron were found to be mostly rotten.—The number contains notes on sea weed as a manure in the Western Islands, and on "A Simple Hebridean Wedding."

February 25.—A dispute had arisen among the subscribers for the proposed Northern Asylum. The name of the Provost of Inverness had been omitted from the sub-committee, though it was on the general committee. The Town Council regarded this as a slight. At a meeting of subscribers, the name of the Provost was added to the sub-committee by a majority, but the minority resented the step. At the same time they protested that they had no intention of casting any indignity on the Provost of Inverness. His name had been omitted only because the sub-committee was limited and representative of a wide district.

March 4.—Full accounts are given of the bloody battles with the Sikhs who had crossed the Sutlej into British territory with a force of 60,000 men and 150 pieces of cannon. The battles took place in the previous December between the 18th and 22nd, at Moodkee and Ferozeshah, about twenty miles from Feroze-



pore. The British army, under Sir Hugh Gough and Sir Henry Hardinge, defeated the enemy, but at great cost to our troops. In three battles our losses amounted to 3295 killed and wounded, including 50 British officers killed and 117 wounded. Among the killed were Sir Robert Sale and Sir John MacCaskill, the latter a native of Skye, and an officer of great distinction. Major P. Grant, Auchterblair [afterwards Field-Marshal Sir Patrick Grant] had his horse shot under him, and received three desperate wounds, but was recovering. "Two sons of Sheriff Tytler, and a son of Mr Macandrew, solicitor, of this town, were also in the actions, but escaped unhurt." Captain John Munro, A.D.C., second son of General Munro of Teaninich, was severely wounded and afterwards died.

*Ibid.*—The protracted debate on the measure for the repeal of the Corn Laws ended in a majority of 97 for the Government. The condition of Ireland was afterwards discussed. "We observe that all the papers mention the decay of Mr O'Connell's physical powers. The reporters can hardly catch his words, so tremulous and feeble is his voice, which once filled the House with its rich full tones, and his fingers seem unable to turn over the leaves of any book or document he may chance to refer to."—A pamphlet by the burgh member, Mr James Morrison, on "The Defects of the English System of Railway Legislation," is noticed in the paper at some length.

*Ibid.*—There are reports of several meetings of Farmer Societies. At the Inverness meeting the relative merits of Drill and Broadcast Sowing, and Thick and Thin Sowing, were discussed. The Wester Ross Farmer Society examined samples of potatoes, which were found to be in a healthy state. It was noticed that several farms in the neighbourhood of Inverness had been taken at an advance of rent, which showed that tenants were not alarmed at the abolition of the Corn Laws.

March 18.—"At length the fearful crisis, for some time apprehended, has arrived in unhappy Ireland. Famine, with its dreadful concomitants of fever and dysentery, prevails in almost every county and locality of the



sister kingdom." A bill was brought in for the establishment of a Central Board of Health in Dublin, with branches in the different parishes and unions, and with provision for the supply of medicines, food, and other necessities.

**Ibid.**—Captain Mackay Sutherland, formerly of Udale, addressed a circular to the tenantry on the estate of Aberarder, offering to convert the money rent into a corn rent, according to the fiars' prices each year. It is stated that several other proprietors in Inverness-shire and Ross-shire intended making a similar offer.

**March 25.**—Three Highland dwarfs from Lochcarron excited some interest at this time, and were engaged to go to London. They consisted of two brothers and a sister named Macfinlay. The eldest was twenty-two years old and forty-five inches in height; the second, twenty years, and forty-four inches; the third, a girl, eighteen years and forty-three inches. They had double elbow and knee joints. They were dressed in Mackenzie tartan, and could chant Gaelic melodies.—The death is recorded from Harris of a patriarch, John Martin, who was said to be 112 years old. As a boy he attended Macleod, Bernera, when in hiding after the battle of Cul-loden.—A letter gives an account of the fate of an Assynt witch, who was strangled by a party of boys in 1769. The story is related by Pennant, who visited Assynt in 1772. The letter is in correction of an article which had appeared in "Tait's Magazine."

**April 1.**—There is an account of the victory of Aliwal, obtained over the Sikhs on 28th January by Sir Harry Smith. It may be added here that on 10th February Gough and Hardinge finally crushed the Sikh forces at Sobraon.

**Ibid.**—At 8 o'clock on the evening of the 26th ult. fire broke out in the lower part of the Athenæum Buildings, the large pile at the corner of High Street and Church Street, Inverness. There was a copious supply of water, but the fire engines were in wretched order, the principal engine having been sent to Glasgow for repair! After two hours' labour, however, the fire was subdued, the damage being less than was anticipated. The fire had broken out in a coal-cellar.



Ibid.—The removal of stones and rock from the side of Loch-Ness road, near Abriachan, led to the discovery of a cavern largely filled with stalactite and stalagmite. The cavern extended twenty-one feet inward, varying in height from ten to twelve feet, and from one to two yards in breadth.

April 8.—There is an account of improvements made within the previous four years on the estate of Rothiemurchus. Waste land had been reclaimed, roads and drains constructed, plantations renewed, and an embankment upwards of three miles long raised to check the inundations of the Spey. It is mentioned that for seventeen years the mansion-house and shootings had been rented by the noble family of Bedford, and that the Duchess Dowager had evinced no small zeal and taste in embellishing the pleasure grounds.

April 15.—On this date there is an article on the centenary of the battle of Culloden, falling the following day. The battle was fought on 16th April 1746, old style, and in spite of the change from old style to new, making the real anniversary the 27th, the 16th holds its ground in public memory. In a short description of the battlefield the editor speaks of part of it being under the plough, but otherwise mentions all the familiar features—the graves, the marsh which impeded the English artillery, the Well of the Dead, the Cumberland Stone. He adds—"We can trace parts of the important stone-wall which, for a space, defended the right of the Highland army, but which the Argyllshire Campbells broke down." There is thus conclusive proof that remains of the wall were in existence in 1846. Gowie's map, as we formerly mentioned, was published in 1845.

Ibid.—It is stated that Mr James Matheson of the Lews, M.P., had purchased the estate of Bennetsfield, in Ross-shire, for £12,500.

April 15 and 22.—A movement had arisen to drop for the time the scheme of a railway between Perth and Inverness. The rush of schemes had raised the price of labour 50 per cent., and depressed the money market. The stock of the Inverness and Perth Company was selling at 25s discount. A meeting of shareholders, which was held in the Caledonian Hotel on the 18th April, adopted by



a large majority a resolution declaring that though they highly approved of the railway, they considered that it should not be proceeded with meantime. The meeting, however, was called by an anonymous advertisement, and the directors did not appear. The issue contains announcements of the winding-up of railway projects both in England and Scotland.

April 22.—The 16th inst. was a bright, pleasant day, and great crowds of persons, old and young (the Inverness schools had a holiday), visited Culloden battlefield. "The scene was highly animated and striking, presenting a vivid contrast to the usual quietude of that large, sombre, tableland, the solitary scene of the battle." At a dinner held in the evening in the Caledonian Hotel (Mackintosh of Mackintosh in the chair), stories were told about the battle and the rising. The proposal was then made to erect a memorial cairn on the battlefield, and £30 was subscribed on the spot. Afterwards Mr Patric Park, London, wrote offering to execute, free of cost, except for the material, the statue of a Highlander twelve feet high. The outcome of the offer was probably the design which is now in the Inverness Museum.

Ibid.—Six persons were indicted at the spring Justiciary Court at Inverness in connection with the potato riots in the preceding February. Three cases went to trial, and ended in conviction. Two men were sentenced each to nine months' imprisonment, and one to four months.

April 29.—An interesting account is given of the "Battle of Little Ferry," fought between a hastily assembled force of Sutherland Militia and a Jacobite force under the Earl of Cromartie, on 15th April 1746. The Jacobite force was dispersed, and the Earl of Cromartie captured. The account was contributed by some writer well acquainted with Sutherland, and who drew on original sources.

May 6.—It is announced that contracts for a new prison on the Castle Hill had been entered into, and the work was to be immediately proceeded with.—The first election was held to the Parochial Board of Inverness.—Mr Hugh Innes Cameron resigned his offices of Clerk of Supply in Ross-shire and Clerk of



the Heritors and Commissioners in the affairs of Parliament. Mr Alexander Mackenzie, Muirton Cottage, was appointed his successor.

May 13.—The railway schemes of the Great North of Scotland and the Perth and Inverness line were now undergoing investigation before a Committee of the House of Commons. The evidence of Mr Joseph Mitchell for the Perth to Inverness route is given in this issue.

May 20.—“We resume our notices of the northern railways. The Perth and Inverness Bill has been rejected on the ground of engineering difficulties, or obstacles, while the Aberdeen companies have all been triumphant. The affairs of the former will soon be wound up, and the secretary announces that the probable expenses will not exceed 15s per share. A lesser sum, we trust, will be found sufficient, for the northern scrip-holders already smart sufficiently under the loss, delay, and disappointment.” The London correspondent says that the difficulty on which the Committee stumbled was the steepness of some of the gradients on the Grampian line. “In vain did seven engineers of the highest professional reputation depone that there was no difficulty in the case—that several steeper gradients were now successfully worked on many of the existing lines. ‘But none of such length as is proposed on this line?’ ask the Committee. No, answer the engineers, but that is of little consequence, for if you get an engine to ascend a steep gradient five yards in length, you can get it to proceed in the same way for fifty or five thousand yards. Engines don’t get exhausted, as animals do, by a long ascent.” The Committee, however, demurred, and there was an end of it. The Aberdonians appear to have made much of the possibility of snow-blocks, but the Inverness promoters replied that their climate was better than the climate of Aberdeen. “We can raise wheat, you can’t. We have the finest and driest temperature in Scotland, and even in our Alpine regions we have evidence to show that our Highland road was frequently open when your coast roads were blocked up with snow.” The correspondent observed that the Aberdonians had got the seven northern counties



thirled to them indefinitely for the means of locomotion and transport, but this prediction was premature. The future had other things to show.

*Ibid.*—On the night of Friday last lights were exhibited for the first time in the lighthouses lately erected at Chanonry Point, Cromarty, and the Covesea skerries in Morayshire.

*Ibid.*—Mr John Denham, tenant of Dunglass, in Ross-shire, died on the 8th inst., and his remains were interred in Fodderty Churchyard. He was one of the most spirited and scientific agriculturists in the North.

May 27.—The Factories Bill, restricting the hours of labour to ten hours a day, was rejected in the House of Commons by the small majority of ten—193 for and 203 against. The Government opposed it.

*Ibid.*—"We are informed that the Lords of the Treasury have directed several Roman and English coins (including groats and silver pennies of Edwards I., II., and III.) to be sent to Inverness to be deposited in the Museum of the Northern Institution, now in the Academy Hall. The collection is already rich in early Scotch and English coins, and this liberal donation, when it arrives, will form a valuable addition to it."

June 3.—"On Monday, 18th ult., Mr Matheson, of the celebrated firm of Matheson & Co., China, accompanied by Miss Matheson, sister of the proprietor of the Lews, paid his first visit to his recently purchased estates in Kintail; and as might have been expected the warm-hearted inhabitants of that romantic locality, and the numerous tenantry on the estates, bestirred themselves to testify their joy on the occasion of placing bonfires on every butting cliff in the neighbourhood, and quaffing bumpers to the health and happiness of their esteemed landlord."

June 10.—An article on this date speaks of the angry feeling entertained by some northern landlords and farmers against Sir Robert Peel in connection with the abolition of the Corn Laws. The feeling, however, was by no means universal, and the editor was convinced that farmers had little to fear. He points to the high price of cattle, and believes that demand and consumption will so increase as to secure steady and remunerating prices for



grain. As to the landlords, if any of them put their estates into the market, they would fetch as high a price as they would have done in the most palmy days of the Corn Laws. Another subject of great importance was the administration of the new Poor-Law. One gentleman stated that he had paid £500 of poor-law assessment, and he thought that the tendency of the burden was to increase; indeed, he feared that unless proper attention was paid to the working of the law, landlords would be compelled to become absentees. The editor says—"We believe the assessment to be very heavy in some of our northern parishes, and yet the poor are but inadequately supplied with the necessaries of life, owing to the smallness of their allowances and the comparatively limited exercise of private charity. It is unquestionably the duty of the local boards to resist and defeat attempts at imposition. It is equally their duty, however, to take care that the just claims of poverty are not opposed or disregarded."

*Ibid.*—The weather was extremely hot, the thermometer ranging from 75 degs. to 85 degs., and at Elgin it was as high as 86 degs. A thunderstorm and floods occurred in the uplands of Morayshire. "The heat and drought have had the effect of reducing the river Ness even below its level in the dry season of 1826. For days back boys might be seen wading across the stream."

*Ibid.*—A paragraph tells of the number of coaches and steamers in connection with Inverness. One coach ran between Inverness and Nairn, passing through Culloden Moor twice a day. Two steamers were on Loch Ness, one the "Culloden," commanded by Captain Turner. The "North Star" was running between Inverness and London, the "Duke of Richmond" between Inverness and Leith, and the "Maid of Morven" twice a week along the shores of the Moray Firth, calling at the coast of Sutherland.

*Ibid.*—A correspondent sends some anecdotes of the siege of the Castle of Inverness in 1746, as told by his grandfather, who was in the Castle at the time. The commander, Major Grant, gave the garrison spirits to stimulate their courage, and they engaged in shooting



for a time. The first round carried away a bundle of straw from the back of a man who was crossing the stone bridge, the man himself being little hurt. He crawled away on all fours. "The Castle kept up this hot chance peppering for about thirty minutes, when in a moment it was stopped in consequence of a Highlander getting up to a garret, or rather to the rigging of a house, on the Tomnahurich side, and there taking a deliberate aim. A ball from his trusty gun penetrated the skull of a red-coat within the battlements, causing instant death—hence the cessation alluded to. The brave (though little) major expostulated, threatened, and promised rewards, but to no effect—all as one man refused resuming operations."

June 17.—Mr Fox Maule had moved the second reading of his bill for compelling proprietors to grant sites to the Free Church. Sir James Graham opposed the bill, but in a conciliatory speech. The editor says that the number of "repudiators" was now small, the most uncompromising being the Duke of Buccleuch. Numerous concessions had been made in Ross-shire and other counties, "where proprietors have withdrawn their refusals, 'softened by time' and the return of kindly feelings." The bill was afterwards withdrawn.

Ibid.—Great destitution is reported from the island of Harris. The potatoes stored in pits had turned out a complete failure. "Such is the destitute state of the poor that they go to the seashore and gather limpets, cockles, and other shell-fish, and by digging in the sands of Sacrista they get a species of small fish called sand-eels. On these and these only do they subsist."

June 24.—There is a long notice of the work on the Costume of the Clans issued by John Sobieski and Charles Edward Stuart. The two brothers were still at Eilean Aigas.

July 1.—The Corn Law Bill had passed, and Sir Robert Peel had been defeated in the House of Commons on the Irish Coercion Bill. "A Prussian vessel from Dantzic is now lying at our port [Inverness] freighted with wheat for our enterprising townsman, Mr D. Rose. This is the first importation of wheat made for at least half-a-century in Inverness for the consumption of the district."



**Ibid.**—The fine weather had been broken by thunderstorms and heavy rains. Rivers, except the Ness, were in heavy flood. The lightning caused considerable damage. Several persons were struck and stunned, and one life was lost in Orkney. A fine ash tree at Reelig, one of the largest in the North, was shattered, and a sow was killed at Culbokie with a litter of ten pigs and a stirk. Ten rafts of wood were swept away by the Spey. The thunderstorms extended all over the north as far as Shetland.

**July 8.**—Sir Robert Peel had resigned, and Lord John Russell was called to be Prime Minister, and had formed a new administration. Lord Palmerston was at the Foreign Office, Sir George Grey at the Home Office, and Earl Grey at the Colonial Office. Mr Macaulay was Paymaster-General. Among the household appointments, the Duchess of Sutherland succeeded the Duchess of Buccleuch as Mistress of the Robes.

**July 15.**—At the annual sheep and wool market there was a rise of from 1s to 2s on wedders and from 1s to 3s on ewes and lambs. The demand for the two latter classes was almost unprecedented. "The full employment of the labouring classes, engaged in railways and other works, and the revival of trade, with the prospect of still further improvement, have no doubt tended to produce this result." In wool, however, there was very little business, the market being, it was alleged, overstocked with foreign wool. Prices are quoted as follows:—Cheviot wedders, 24s to 33s 6d; ewes, 14s 6d to 21s 6d; lambs, 10s to 14s 6d. Blackfaced wedders, 13s 6d to 24s; ewes, 10s to 13s; lambs, 8s to 9s. The few sales effected in wool could hardly be quoted as a criterion of prices.

**Ibid.**—Mr Bankes of Letterewe had recently purchased the property of Gruinard, in Lochbroom.

**July 22.**—Mr David Dundas, member for Sutherland, was the new Solicitor-General for England. He was afterwards re-elected for the county without opposition. Mr Macaulay was opposed in Edinburgh by Sir Culling Smith, but was re-elected by a large majority.

**July 29.**—At a meeting of shareholders of the



Perth and Inverness Railway Company, held in London, a resolution to dissolve the Company was adopted. It was stated that 48,000 shares had been issued, 46,089 paid upon; that the receipts of the Company were £115,539, and the liabilities £38,899. This left a balance in the hands of the Company of £76,639, or about 33s 4½d per share. Thirty shillings a share would be immediately returned, and the balance as soon as affairs were wound up.

*Ibid.*—In the trenching of a moss in the neighbourhood of Kishorn, Lochcarron, some miles from the sea, the remains of a rudely constructed anchor, of an unusual pattern, were found embedded between the moss and a substratum of clay. A slight accumulation of marine shells appeared in the clay, and the upper stratum of moss was five feet thick.

*Ibid.*—A ferryman and a horse were drowned on a boisterous morning at Kessock Ferry. The ferryman, named William Mackay, was sitting on the edge of the boat, holding the horse by the head, when the animal, about half-way across, leaped out of the boat, carrying the man with it. "Both shortly rose to the surface; Mackay had gained a seat on the back of the animal, and they might have been saved by the horse swimming ashore, but its head was held strongly down by a martingale." The state of the tide and the sea prevented assistance.—The same issue records the drowning of six persons by the swamping of a boat between Portree and Raasay.

August 5.—On 31st July the foundation-stone of the new prison (as it was then) was laid with masonic honours on the Castle Hill. Brodie of Brodie as Provincial Grand Master took the leading part. The county and burgh were officially represented in the procession.

*Ibid.*—The weather was hot and the prospects for harvest appeared to be promising, apart from apprehensions of potato disease. "In Morayshire, as in our own neighbourhood, the crop appears to be sound and luxuriant; the same is the case in Sutherland and Caithness; but in Skye, in Lochcarron, Kintail, and other parts of the West Highlands there are undoubtedly large failures. These are indicated by the blackening and withering of



the shaws, as if struck by frost, and the speedy decay of the plant. In some parts of Lochaber disease is also beginning to manifest itself."

*Ibid.*—A large quantity of human bones had been found by men digging in a field near Struy, in Strathglass. "The corpses appear to have been interred irregularly, in a heap, and are probably the remains of some clan battle in ancient times, though no account of any conflict in that district remains. Among these relics was found a rude Highland brooch, with part of the plaid or garment which it was employed to fasten."—The same issue acknowledges a boomerang and "the skull of a Hume River warrior," sent to the Inverness Museum by Mr David Mackenzie from Australia.

August 12.—The issue contains extracts from the letter-book of an Inverness merchant in 1745-46. The merchant was Mr Duncan Grant, a substantial man, who had his house and other property on the east side of Castle Street. Duncan was not only a merchant, but a sort of military commissary, who supplied the garrisons of Inverness and Fort-Augustus, and the troops at Bernera (Glenelg) and Ruthven, with provisions and firing. Naturally, therefore, he was a Hanoverian, and on the arrival of the first portion of the Highland army in Inverness on 18th February 1746, he was obliged to fly. "He hid the most valuable of his goods, and left the remainder in charge of his wife, who seems to have been a clever woman, for although the malt in town was seized to feed the rebels' horses, she found means to secret about forty bolls till her husband's return." The extracts are continued in subsequent issues.

*Ibid.*—"No shooting season could begin under more favourable auspices than that of 1846. The fogs which enveloped and shut out the distant landscapes have been dispelled by the thunder of last Saturday, and now the bracing atmosphere invites the young sportsman," &c. The list of shootings let numbers about 115.

August 19.—The finding of the bones near Struy is explained by a gentleman "versant in all Highland antiquities." The story is that in the end of the 16th or beginning of the 17th



century the men of the Aird determined to make a cattle raid on Erchless as a reprisal for offences. The treachery of a woman gave them their opportunity, but they were attacked before they got the cattle away. The struggle took place near the ford between the new wooden bridge over the River Glass and the junction of the Glass with the Farrar. "The cattle were rescued, and next day so many heads were found in the pool below the ford that the latter has retained the name of Ath-man-Ceann—the Ford of the Heads—to this day."

August 16 and 26.—The disastrous failure of the potato crop in the Highlands as well as in Ireland is now realised. A statement on the 19th says—"The mysterious potato disease, which alike baffles all cure and prevention, is fast spreading its ravages over this and the neighbouring counties. Black and withered shaws meet us in various directions, and the tubers, on being taken up, are found to be generally tainted. One gentleman who had a crop of fully £200 value informs us that though his potatoes appeared sound and healthy on Friday last, they are now wholly gone." On the 29th reports from numerous quarters reveal the extent of the calamity. The editor says—"In every kind of soil and situation, in land newly cultivated and planted for the first time, as on old fields, and with every kind of seed, the disease has been found to exist; nor has any remedy been discovered. To meet the calamity requires instant and comprehensive measures. A meeting was held here [at Inverness] on Friday, called by the Provost, when a committee was nominated to make the necessary inquiries, and to co-operate with the Town Council and the county gentlemen. The latter meet on Tuesday first, pursuant to a requisition addressed to Mr Ogilvy, joint-convenor of the county. A meeting was held at Portree on the 18th inst.—Lord Macdonald in the chair—when it was agreed, on the motion of Mr Baillie, M.P., that an application should be made to Government to advance money by way of loan, at a low rate of interest, to provide employment for the people." As examples of the reports we may quote two passages. A correspondent writes



from Glenmoriston that the disease had done fearful havoc not only in that glen but throughout the length and breadth of the West Highlands. "A friend had a few days ago gone to Knoydart, Skye, Lochalsh, and Kintail, and he tells me that in all that extensive district he had scarcely seen one field which was not affected—some to a great extent, and others presented a most melancholy appearance, as they were enveloped in one mass of decay. Unless a gracious Providence look upon our poor Highlanders in mercy, in midst of manifold judgments, there is every likelihood that starvation, with all its horrors, must be their portion." A correspondent writes from Easter Ross—"The potato disease has at length visited us, turning one of the finest crops of this valuable root that ever our eyes beheld into rottenness." Outside the potato crop there was a good harvest and what was considered a high rate of wages to harvesters, namely, 1s 4d to 1s 8d per day, a fact which was some mitigation of the calamity. The failure was general in Scotland, but the crofters were particularly dependent on the potato crop. From Ireland also the reports were of the very worst kind, and alarm was universal.

August 29.—There is a paragraph about smuggling which is said to be "at length" nearly extinct. As a general thing, it was extinct a good many years before this time, but it survived in remote corners. Perhaps even now (1908) the excise officers have to be on the look-out for an occasional still. In 1846 Mr Banks of Letterewe found the practice existing at Udrigil and Achintarsan, and took measures to suppress it. The paragraph says—"There is not a single still on the Gairloch estates, and Sir Kenneth Mackenzie's tutors will not suffer any individual concerned with smuggling to remain on the property. Since this law of the estate was enforced, the small farms have improved rapidly, and the cottars, when they view their present comfortable circumstances compared with their former habits, would on no consideration resume the practice even if the proprietor allowed them. The late lamented Sir Francis Mackenzie of Gairloch was one of the first Highland proprietors who discovered



that smuggling was injurious both to proprietors and tenant, and he suppressed it on his estate. Applecross followed his example, and caused his foresters and gamekeepers to assist in suppressing bothies. At first the poor smugglers considered those interferences an invasion of their feudal liberties, and designated their landlords 'Gauger lairds.' In time, however, they came to take a different view of the case, and saw that the innovations produced lasting comforts. In Inverness-shire there is very little smuggling now; and the revenue is indebted to Mr O'Hy, an indefatigable revenue officer, for its suppression in Strathconan. Marine smuggling is almost extinct in the Hebrides, and it is a difficult matter to fall in with a keg of Hol-lands, once so common."

September 3.—The issue of the "Courier" on this date, Thursday, was a day later than usual, in order to cover the reports of the Highland and Agricultural Show, which was held at Inverness, in the Academy Park and the grounds of Bell's School, which opened into one another. The paper consisted of eight large pages instead of four. The show began on Tuesday, 1st inst., and was a great success. The total entries or lots numbered 648, divided as follows:—Cattle, 219; horses, 74; sheep, 123; goats, 2; swine, 22; poultry, 36; extra stock, 52; dairy produce, 21; seeds, roots, and plants, 40; implements, 59. Highland cattle were a fine show, and people were gratified that the second prize for a bull went to Harris, an animal belonging to Mr Donald Stewart, Luskintyre. The first went to the Marquis of Breadalbane. The show of shorthorns was limited in number, but considered to be excellent, considering the distance of Inverness from the southern districts. The prize bull in this stock belonged to Mr Hopper, a Yorkshire agriculturist, which had also carried off the first prize at national shows in England and Ireland, and was thus the champion of the United Kingdom. A sum of a thousand guineas had been offered for him. It is stated that the Aberdeenshire breed—apparently a horned breed, of which there were specimens—was gradually wearing out, being supplanted by the Angus and Galloway.



"There was but an indifferent show of polled cattle, but a few good bulls, and one or two superior two-year-olds." The show of sheep was admirable in quality but disappointing in numbers, some of the most extensive hill farmers failing to compete. On the other hand, the show of horses was much superior to that at the Society's exhibition at Dumfries the previous year. "For active strength and muscular power there has rarely been a better exhibition of horses, and this seemed to surprise some of our visitors. Our hardy Highland ponies were also greatly admired." The Agricultural Chemistry Association had a meeting in the Northern Meeting Rooms, at which there were important discussions "on the use of prepared food in feeding cattle, and the mode of improving hill pastures and hill land generally." A grand dinner was held in a pavilion erected near the Academy gates.

*Ibid.*—A county meeting was held to consider the calamity arising from the failure of the potato crop. Ample reports were forthcoming as to the virulence and universality of the disease. The meeting adopted a memorial to the Government asking for advice and assistance. It is stated that Mr Matheson of Achany and the Lews had stepped forward to guarantee a supply of Indian corn to the amount of £10,000 in order to meet the inevitable deficiency of food. It is also stated that the value of the potatoes usually shipped from Perthshire was about £100,000 per annum, and all this was gone.

*Ibid.*—The Northern Meeting was held the previous week, the attendance being the largest for many years. On the Saturday races were held at the Longman.

*Ibid.*—The freedom of the burgh of Inverness was conferred on Mr Robert Wallace, formerly M.P. for Greenock, who had taken an active part in establishing penny postage and carrying out other public improvements. He had been obliged to retire from Parliament on account of ill-health.—The issue contains a long statement of the proceedings before the Select Committee of the House of Commons in the case of the Perth and Inverness and Inverness and Elgin Junction Railway Bills.



September 9.—Several memoranda are given in connection with the Highland Society's Show. Among the implements exhibited was a chas-chrome (or Highland spade plough), which stood in contrast to the new iron ploughs. The Museum likewise furnished a specimen of the ancient Scandinavian single-stilted plough. A dwarf Highland cow and a small grey Chinese cow were also among the exhibits. The London correspondent mentions that a reporter from a London paper was at the show, who complained of the charge of "a guinea a night for a sleeping room, or even a couch or sofa," and declared that the only commodities that might truly be called cheap were hare soup and Highland whisky! A Horticultural Society in Inverness was active at this time and had awarded a premium to a cottar in the Black Isle for the neatest cottage and premises. There was, however, only one entry, but it was considered well worthy of the prize.

Ibid.—The London correspondent mentions the publication of St John's book on the Wild Sports of the Scottish Highlands. "It is quite a gem of its kind—and a very valuable gem it is likely to prove to Highland lairds, whose rents for sporting quarters will be probably doubled or trebled by Mr St John's fascinating work."

September 16.—A special meeting of the Commissioners of Supply of the County of Ross was held to consider the situation arising from the potato failure. A series of resolutions was passed urging that means should be taken to provide employment for the people, and to preserve such of the potatoes as appeared to be sound; also that depots of Indian corn and other food should be formed at central places. It was believed that no relief of a general kind was to be expected from the Government, and that the utmost local effort should be made to mitigate the impending calamity. One speaker suggested road-making, at which he hoped the Government would assist. A significant fact is stated, namely, that "probably two-thirds of the food of the labouring classes in this county has hitherto consisted of potatoes." In every issue of the paper at this time there are notes on the failure and suggestions for the future.



September 23.—The Home Secretary had sent a letter to Mr Baillie, M.P. for Inverness-shire, in reply to petitions regarding the potato failure. It stated that the Government were in communication with the Board of Supervision on the subject; and further, that an experienced commissariat officer would proceed immediately to Scotland to make an inspection and report. "This report," it is added, "will receive the earliest attention on the part of the Government; but I feel it is my duty to state that while her Majesty's Government will be desirous to promote and facilitate the efforts of landed proprietors to lessen the distress which is apprehended, they cannot encourage the expectation that by any direct system of pecuniary advances they can relieve the proprietors from the obligation which rests upon them, or take upon themselves the charge of providing for the wants of the people. Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that, notwithstanding the failure of the potatoes, the crop of oats in the West of Scotland is this year generally abundant, and the quality excellent; and they trust that other articles of food will be found to exist in larger quantities than in former years." The letter directs attention to an Act passed the previous session which authorised the advance of public money for drainage purposes.

Ibid.—At the Inverness Circuit Court there was a special jury case, an action of declarator at the instance of Major-General John Munro of Teaninich against Mrs Catherine Munro or Ross, spouse of Hugh Rose Ross of Cromarty. There was a long trial and a large amount of evidence. The pursuer's property was bounded on the east by the river Alness, which was admitted to be the boundary between the pursuer and the defender. The river was liable to frequent floods, and had several times changed its channel. In particular it was alleged that it had changed its course from a channel known by the name of the Little River to its present channel considerably to the westward; and a question of declarator of property regarding the land between the Little River and the existing channel subsequently arose. The effect of the



verdict returned by the jury was to give the land to Teaninich and the water, or water rights, to Mr Ross of Cromarty. It seems that the defender had withdrawn water from the river for his mills at Dalmore. The verdict looks like a misfortune for both litigants. The case began on Tuesday, the 15th inst., and it is an interesting point that the "Courier" was prevented, by authority, from publishing any part of the evidence till the trial was over, consequently a mere statement of the case appeared in the issue of the 16th inst., the whole of the evidence appearing on the 23rd.

September 30.—There is a long and appreciative notice of St John's "Wild Sports."—The issue also contains an announcement of the death of Captain Munro, Teaninich, a brother of Major-General Munro, the pursuer in the Alness case. Captain Munro joined the army early in life, and received a wound at the battle of Nimeguen, by which he lost the sight of both eyes. "He returned home about the year 1794, and being of a very energetic character, commenced to improve his estate. About thirty years ago he erected the distillery at Teaninich. This was the second erection of the kind in Ross-shire, and has been carried on with the greatest spirit. He was also extensively engaged in salmon fishings and farming, and was a man of singular enterprise. Feeling deeply interested in the results of the late jury court at Inverness, he was present and returned home on Friday (the case closed the previous day). He died on Monday morning, 21st inst., in his 78th year. Captain Munro has acted no inconsiderable part in the commercial and agricultural improvements of Ross-shire for the last thirty years." From Mackenzie's History of the Munros we learn that Captain Munro lost his sight at Nimeguen while carrying off a wounded soldier. The misfortune left no disfigurement, and although totally blind he was able to write with wonderful accuracy, and enjoyed riding, his groom always preceding him on the road. He was the head of the Teaninich family, but in 1831 he sold the estate to his youngest brother, Major-General John Munro, H.E.I.C.S., who was the pursuer in the Alness case. The following week



the defender, Mr John Rose Ross of Cromarty, also died.

October 7.—The death is announced of Hugh Rose Ross of Cromarty, at the age of eighty. He was a proprietor who had filled a considerable amount of space in the public eye, and had shown uncommon spirit and energy. "The possession of large property, the numerous transactions thence arising, and a tenacious and uncompromising disposition led him into many law-suits and personal quarrels; and it is somewhat remarkable that both he and Captain Hugh Munro of Teaninich were seized with their last illness in this town, immediately after the termination of a civil jury trial which they were connected with, and attended personally three weeks ago, and died within a few days of each other." Mr Rose Ross was a native of Creich, in Sutherland, a son of the clergyman who was parish minister there, and afterwards of Tain. He went at an early age to the West Indies, where he rapidly acquired a large fortune as a contractor for Government requirements. With the wealth thus obtained he returned to Ross-shire, and made extensive purchases of land, distinguishing himself especially as an agricultural improver and friend of education. An uncompromising Tory, he was generally in opposition to popular movements, but otherwise a most useful man. "By a free and judicious expenditure of capital in planting and agriculture, he has changed the face of an immense extent of country, and converted barren moors into fine plantations and corn fields." Chiefly by Mr Ross's instrumentality, there was raised a sum of nearly £10,000 by which the Tain Academy was established and endowed. In the hall of the institution a fine portrait was placed of its founder and benefactor. Mr Rose Ross is described as a man of natural talents and indomitable energy.

Ibid.—A special reporter of the "Courier" had taken a run through the Black Isle, Easter Ross, the western districts of Inverness-shire and Ross-shire, and the Islands, to ascertain the condition of the people as affected by the potato failure. The account, which fills almost two columns, presents generally a sad state of affairs. In summing up the writer



says—"Two things appear evident. First, that there is great destitution present and in prospect; and secondly, that the proprietors, on the whole, are meeting the crisis well. Government has offered to put revenue cutters at their disposal, to carry meal or corn to any part of the Highlands or islands they can reach. Sir Edward Coffin (the Government Commissioner) is busy with his tour of inspection, and the Board of Supervision are making arrangements to supply all pauper wants." From the text of the article, however, it appears that many of the people, who could not as yet be classed as paupers, were fitter objects for charity than for assessments. Incidentally, it is mentioned that the quantity of wheat then grown in Ross-shire was estimated at 20,000 quarters, of which 10,000 were annually exported to London, the other 10,000 sold as flour. This, however, was grown on the ground of the larger farmers, and the destitution existed among crofters and cottars. On the Coul estates the rent for potato ground was to be deducted. On the Lovat estates the proprietor was carrying out improvements on a gigantic scale, which provided employment. The farm of Canon Bank was being trenched and drained, and brought into a thorough state of cultivation. At a meeting of the Parochial Board of Inverness it was resolved to lay out £300 in the purchase of provisions for the poor.—The "Times" and "Morning Chronicle" had Commissioners in the Highlands reporting on the condition of the people.

*Ibid.*—It is stated that the fine property of Fairburn, belonging to Mr H. M. Fowler of Raddery had been sold to Seaforth for £39,000.—A fire which occurred in Inverness, in Ettles Court, behind the old Royal Hotel, had destroyed several workshops, and gave another proof of the necessity for a regular fire brigade.

October 14.—The debut of Mr Angus B. Reach as a theatrical writer is noticed. He had produced at the Lyceum Theatre a farce entitled "Which Mr Smith?" The "Times" describes it as a very lively production, which would bear paring down a little, but which gave evidence of spirit and originality.

October 21.—The canal bank, adjoining the



River Ness, nearly opposite Torvean, had given way, as the water was being introduced after the completion of repairs. The rush of water raised the river several feet, and a heap of debris had formed in the channel. This accident delayed the re-opening of navigation, which had been fixed for the 2nd of November.

*Ibid.*—The Inverness Town Council made arrangements for the equipment of a fire brigade, and appointed a superintendent. Mr Robertson, the superintendent of the Glasgow Brigade, had seen the engine put into proper order.—A cart wheel, which had been found a few weeks previously in the Spey, near Rothes, was supposed to have been carried away by the flood of 1829. It was in excellent preservation, and was set to use on the farm of Dundurcas.

October 28.—There are more communications about the potato failure. Lochaber was in a very bad way. Round Fort-William the portions least affected had not yielded one-fourth of the quantity put into the ground as seed. A meeting was held at which the proprietors agreed to give employment to all labourers on their respective properties at 1s 6d per day, or an equal value of food at cost price. Several had also spent considerable sums in the purchase of meal. The most extensive relief was necessary in the islands. It was estimated that in South Uist and Barra 7000 or 8000 bolls of meal would be required; in North Uist about 4000 bolls, and in Harris 5000 bolls. The Inverness Farmer Society discussed the question whether a substitute could be found for the potato, and various kinds of plants and vegetables were suggested, such as beans, pease, cabbage, carrots, and artichokes. It was generally admitted that a potato diet was too much used in the Highlands.

November 4.—The distress in Ireland was on a vast scale, and large sums had to be provided for the sustenance of the people. Presentments to the amount of £700,000 had been granted by the Board of Works; the silver currency of Ireland had been augmented to the extent of £100,000, in order to facilitate the payment of labourers; and provisions were to be obtained at all the ports



and principal places. Disturbances had occurred in many districts. It is now stated that the destitution in the Highlands and Islands had induced Ministers to order supplies of provisions to be forwarded as in the case of Ireland.

**Ibid.**—A ship "The Deemster," belonging to Mr James Masson, Inverness, which left Quebec on 7th September with a cargo of timber and flour, had been wrecked in heavy weather off the great bank of Newfoundland. Five lives were lost, including the master, a native of Avoch, and the carpenter, a native of Inverness.

**November 12.**—The Inverness Town Council was engaged in preparing a bill for improving the harbour. There was an idea of altering the channel, and the venerable chronicler, John Maclean, mentioned the tradition that an identical plan was commenced under the auspices of General Monk, when the troops of the Commonwealth were stationed at Inverness. The operations were stopped by the sudden recall of the army after the Protector's death. "This was talked off in John's early days" (he was then between ninety and a hundred years of age). "Upwards of 200 yards of the line had been cut, as is still visible. Several civilians assisted, and had, what was then considered good pay, namely, threepence sterling a day."—The issue contains a long account of the singular sect called the Buchanites. The article is a review of a work by Mr Joseph Train, "the gentleman who so liberally supplied Sir Walter Scott with hints and materials for his novels, and whose antiquarian diligence greatly enriched the armoury and collections at Abbotsford."

**November 18.**—Distress was increasing in the Highlands and Islands as winter advanced. According to a gentleman who had been travelling in the western districts, the instances of suffering and want that met the eye were sad in the extreme. The two great proprietors of Skye, Lord Macdonald and Macleod of Macleod, had laid in supplies of meal. Great credit is given to Captain Inge, a sporting tenant, for the work he had provided in Strathglass in making roads and bridges. As an illustration of the suffering in Ireland, it is stated that the arrivals by steamer in the



south-west of Scotland presented touching pictures. Whole families, carrying with them all but the turf walls that constituted their homes, were seeking refuge from destitution. "Fathers, in rags, carry the rude implements that are to be bringers of bread; mothers, scantily covered, bear children in arms; and children, bareheaded and barefooted, are loaded with trifling articles of furniture that may assist in supplying the new hovel, or, disposed of, avert hunger for an hour." Fortunately, the season so far had been mild, and work was abundant in the Southern Counties.

Ibid.—A movement was in progress for putting down the practice of drinking at Highland funerals. A paper with this object was signed by heads of families in the town and parish of Dingwall, and a resolution was passed at a meeting of the inhabitants of Golspie. Steps were subsequently taken in other places with this view.

November 25.—An interesting column is made up from an interview with John Maclean, known as the Nonagenarian, and latterly as the Centenarian, as he lived to be a hundred or over. His recollections are compared with statements from other sources, such as Burt's letters. John thought that in his youth the people had more command of the necessaries of life, and in their homely way were more comfortable and contented. Potatoes, he said, were first planted and raised here about the year 1756 by William and Sanders Dawson, gardeners. They did well in the orchard grounds, and some of the neighbours (John's father among the rest) began to plant a few. It was long, however, before the potato became general. "We did not plant many," said John; "it was a rare thing to have the last of them for dinner on Christmas day; and before that only one or two diets would be taken in the week. They were mostly kept in a corner of the muckle kist, and when they were done people seemed nowise disappointed." The daily food of the common people consisted of oatmeal porridge, with milk or beer for breakfast; sowens or kail, with bannocks of barley and pease meal, and sometimes fish, for dinner; porridge and milk for supper. On Sundays there was generally something extra; butcher meat was cheap



and seldom sold by weight. A hare or black-cock could always be had in winter. Nothing was sent out of the country but the cattle which the drovers took south. Everything was cheap. "How could it be otherwise," said John, "when Donald Cameron and his wife, one Friday forenoon, at the market, bought a leg of mutton, a peck of meal, and a cart of peats, all for elevenpence, and to make up the shilling he and his wife had a gill of Hollands for the other penny." Contemporary documents give a much less favourable account of the condition of the people in the eighteenth century than John did, but his statements about the food appear to have been fairly accurate. He forgot a good deal about famines, want, and hardship. The population was smaller. The editor was disposed to believe that at least among the frugal and thrifty of the poor there was less actual want eighty or ninety years before than was to be found at the time of writing. John Maclean remembered the introduction of tea, and gives anecdotes regarding it.

*Ibid.*—Plans were submitted to the Inverness Town Council for the Harbour Bill, and orders were given to prepare the Parliamentary notices.

December 2.—There was a shock of earthquake on the 24th ult., general over the North, but not very severe.—The Inverness Town Council appointed a committee to advertise for estimates to put the Island bridges in a proper state of repair. It was also resolved to advertise feus at Island Bank. It was estimated that the suffering population in the Highlands and Islands numbered upwards of 100,000. The Commission of Free Church Assembly had authorised a collection in the churches for their assistance.

December 9.—Sir George Macpherson-Grant, Bart., Balindalloch, died on the 24th ult., in the 66th year of his age. It is stated that in 1809 he was returned to Parliament as member for the county of Sutherland, and sat for nineteen years. He was a most useful member in his attention to local interests, and a zealous improver of his estate. "He planted very considerably, and reclaimed much waste land; his improvements being all on a liberal and comprehensive scale, executed with great



judgment, in consequence of which not one, we believe, has proved a failure."

December 16.—Two old Highland letters are given, one illustrating the relations between the Grants and Glengarry in 1737, another from Lady Mackintosh of the 'Forty-five to the Marquis of Tullibardine (Jacobite Duke of Athole). The lady was distressed because Seaforth had hindered a brother of Mackenzie of Kilcoy from bringing a company of men to the Prince's service. She thought the Duke should issue an order for raising the men, and then he could use a little force! The letter is ill-spelt, but spelling was not an accomplishment of ladies of the period.

Ibid.—A law-suit was going on between the Marquis of Breadalbane and the sheep farmers of the North relative to a drove road by Inverouran and Tyndrum to Falkirk. The Court of Session decided that the farmers had a relevant case, and right to the drove stance at Inverouran if they could prove possession.

Ibid.—A labourer cutting drains on the farm of Connage, in Petty, turned up three bronze implements. They resembled hatchet heads—two large and two small—and were to be seen in the Schoolhouse at Ardersier. The field on which they were found was called the "Blood-field."

Ibid.—The wood of Ericht, stretching for about three miles along the southern side of Loch-Ness, had been marked out for cultivation. "The soil appears to be of good quality, but there will be some difficulty in rooting out the stubborn hazel trees that have long held possession of the picturesque spot. We shall miss the hazels in summer, and also the hooting of the owls at night, that often scared the peasant as he passed the solitary road. The change, however, will enhance the value of the beautiful estate of Mr Fraser-Tytler, and afford occupation for the people." Proprietors were taking advantage of the Drainage Act in order to provide employment.

December 23.—A heavy snowstorm which had prevailed for some weeks was beginning to disappear. The mails in many places had to be carried on horseback, and were irregular.

Ibid.—A meeting was held in Edinburgh under the auspices of the Lord Provost to consider



the destitution of the Highlands. A committee was appointed to obtain subscriptions and carry out measures of relief.

December 30.—On the 19th inst. a fire broke out in a close of old thatched houses at the west end of High Street in Dingwall. Its progress was arrested, but not until four or five families had been rendered destitute. No lives were lost.



## No. VI.

The year 1847 is a melancholy year in the annals of the United Kingdom, and left very painful memories, as well as distressing problems, in the Highlands of Scotland. The disaster of the potato famine first fell on Ireland, beginning in 1845; but the failure of 1846 was almost equally complete in the Highlands, and the full weight of the misfortune was experienced in 1847. Our columns in the early months of that year furnish reading of the most painful type. In the Western Highlands and Islands the distress was universal; on the east side not so universal, but in many cases bad enough. Riots to prevent the export of grain were common, and in several cases the military had to be called out.

We must refer readers for details to the extracts given below. In this place we may give the following passage from Mr Spencer Walpole's History:—"Nothing even in Ireland was more pitiful than the distress which was desolating the West Highlands; and to add to the misery of the Highlanders their own misfortunes were for some time overlooked because the Irish were more numerous and more noisy. Yet the lairds of Western Scotland showed the Irish landlords an example which the latter might have followed with advantage. In too many cases the absentee Irish landlords remained either in London or abroad, and allowed their agents to take advantage of the crisis to clear their holdings and eject their tenantry. They clamoured for Government aid, and they protested against the injury to their own estates by the application of a poor law to Ireland. The Scotch laird, on the contrary, submitted to his own ruin in a vain attempt to save his people, and when he applied to the Government sought no relief for himself, but only demanded help for his tenantry."

The calamity in Ireland was unparalleled. In March it was stated that 734,000 persons were employed on relief works, and that 240,000 had died. The Government found that the machinery of relief works could not be kept up with advantage, and relief committees were organised throughout Ireland. "At one moment no less than 3,000,000 persons received daily rations under the scheme, and a population was in this way kept alive



till the harvest, and the operations which the harvest occasioned enabled society to resume its ordinary aspect. At the same time bills were carried suspending the duty which Peel had still left on foreign corn, and relaxing the regulations of the Navigation Laws, which prevented its importation in vessels which were not British and which were not manned by British seamen."

In course of the summer Parliament was dissolved. The state of parties in the new House of Commons is given as follows:—Liberals, 333; Peelites, 120; Protectionists, 202. This gave the Government a majority of only 11 over the other two parties combined, but the Peelites on important questions supported the Government. Mr Gladstone was returned for Oxford after a severe contest. Macaulay lost his seat for Edinburgh, chiefly on account of his Maynooth vote and speeches. In the autumn session a bill was passed for the repression of crime in Ireland, which had assumed startling proportions. A new Poor Law bill was also passed for Ireland.

On the 8th of February, Daniel O'Connell addressed the House of Commons for the last time, but "the voice which formerly shook the hall was now sunk to a whisper." O'Connell went abroad, and died at Genoa on 15th May. According to his instructions, his heart was embalmed and taken to Rome; his body was brought home and interred in Glasnevin Cemetery, followed by a procession of 50,000 persons. The discovery of the planet Neptune was a scientific incident of the year.

In the latter part of the year there was a great commercial crisis, arising from over-speculation in railways and extraordinary fluctuations in the corn trade. The Bank Act had to be suspended.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1847.

January 6 and 13.—On the first date a public meeting is reported in opposition to the Police and Harbour Bills promoted by the Inverness Town Council. Another public meeting resolved to raise subscriptions to meet local destitution. On the second date we have reports of county meetings held at Inverness and Dingwall to deal with destitu-



tion. The contributions to the Free Church Committee in Edinburgh for general relief purposes amounted at this time to over £11,000. The Inverness Town Council appointed a Sanitary Committee to consider the state of the town.—On the 13th another public meeting was held with reference to the Inverness Police and Harbour Bills, and a committee was appointed to examine the bills.

January 20.—Sir Edward Coffin issued an address stating that the Government had resolved to establish depots of food at Oban and Portree, and announcing the conditions for application. A meeting at Glasgow resolved to raise subscriptions. One speaker read a letter from a visitor to South Uist which stated that "starvation, hunger, and famine are in this place. They could not give me a morsel of bread in many places if I would have given them five shillings for one cake." The editor stated that at least 3000 persons in the Uists and Barra were in a state of deplorable want. Colonel Gordon of Cluny had expended £1121 within the last few weeks in the purchase of meal and other necessities.

January 27.—There were riots or "meal mobs" at Aberdeen, Peterhead, and other places. The people were anxious to prevent the export of corn or meal. One of these riots took place at Grantown-on-Spey, where special constables had to be sworn in to protect the meal-dealers. The arrival of carters from Lochaber to take away meal had aroused the anger of the inhabitants. The dealers had refused to sell in small quantities to the villagers. Prices were high in consequence of the demand.

*Ibid.*—At a meeting in Inverness approval was given of the Police and Harbour Bills by a majority of 93 to 34.

*Ibid.*—The death is announced of Lieut.-Colonel James Mitchell, C.B., of the 92nd Highlanders, who passed away at Spean-Bridge at the age of 77. He obtained an ensign's commission when the regiment was raised in 1794; he was with Sir John Moore at Corunna, and served throughout the Peninsular war, closing his military service with the battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo. "When the lamented and gallant Colonel Cameron of



Fassfern received his mortal wound at Quatre Bras, the command of the 92nd devolved on Colonel Mitchell, and the fighting qualities of the Gordon Highlanders were well sustained in his hands."

February 3.—The London correspondent writes—"One topic absorbs all others at present. Relief and destitution are the only public watchwords of the day. Party spirit is laid asleep." The Government had brought forward new measures for Ireland, where almost half-a-million persons were lately employed on public works. Notes on the destitution in the Highlands and the means adopted to meet it appear in this as in other issues. Disturbances had taken place in many towns in the North. The editor says—"Speculation in the South has increased the price of grain to a very grievous extent, and that increase, with the fact of daily shipments being made, has very generally alarmed the least informed classes on the shores of the whole Northern Counties. In Banff, Moray, and Ross, there have been riotous demonstrations to induce dealers to keep the corn at home. While we regret that such a spirit should be manifested, we are afraid that the blame does not always rest with the crowd." In Inverness carts were turned back at the harbour and the Waterloo Bridge, and attempts were made to raid meal stores. In the neighbourhood of Evanton, in Ross-shire, a large crowd prevented the shipment of grain. There is a long list of disturbances, or threatened disturbances, and of action taken by the authorities.

February 10.—It is stated that over the North generally quietness had been restored. "This has been accomplished, in the majority of instances, by assurances being given to the people that meal will be placed, in ample quantities, within their reach at fair prices." The quiet, however, was only temporary. Subsequent issues give particulars of meal mobs at many places, including Beaul, Rosemarkie, and Balintraid.

February 17.—Long reports are given of the destitution in the western districts of the counties of Inverness and Ross, and of the villages such as Evanton, &c. A report by Sheriff Fraser, of Fort-William, revealed a de-



plorable state of affairs in Moidart, Arisaig, Morar, and neighbouring districts. For instance, it is stated that of the total population of Arisaig, 868 in number, there were 671 requiring relief; and among the whole of this population there were found only about  $10\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal, affording sustenance for two and a-half days. This is typical of other districts. A memorial signed by 69 of the poorer inhabitants of Evanton, in Ross-shire, declared that many of them were subsisting solely on turnips. County Committees were busy organising relief. In Ross-shire the heritors agreed to give a guarantee for £4000 to the banks at Dingwall and £2000 to the banks at Tain to form a fund for the purchase of food to be sold in terms of instructions. Both counties looked for assistance to the Edinburgh Committee.

February 24.—The main subject is still the sad state of the people and the disposition among them to oppose the export of grain. It would be monotonous at this stage to make long extracts. Mention, however, may be made of a meeting in Skye at which most of the proprietors, including Lord Macdonald and Macleod of Macleod, were present. It was stated that a large amount of work had been afforded, and that although a considerable amount of privation had occurred, not a single death from starvation had taken place. An ample supply of meal had been so far imported. Looking to the future, however, it was calculated that about 30,000 bolls of meal would be required to support the population till the end of October, and besides that provision had to be made for seed for another crop. Lord Macdonald calculated that the cost altogether would be £68,000, and deducting £13,000 which had been applied for under the Drainage Act, and £5000 which would probably be sent home by Skye workmen employed in the south, there would still be a difference of £50,000. The meeting accordingly resolved to apply for assistance to the General Committee in Edinburgh. They also proposed to apply to the Government to assist emigration, as no dependence could be placed on the produce of the potato. A paragraph gives particulars of applications under the Drainage Act for the



eight Northern Counties. Altogether, it is stated, nearly half-a-million sterling had been secured for these counties, the employment from which, it was hoped, would be productive of the greatest temporary good and permanent benefit. A food riot is reported from the village of Avoch, in the Black Isle, in apprehension of which a detachment of soldiers had been obtained from Fort-George. The exporter, however, came forward and announced that to prevent blooshed he had resolved to abandon the intended shipment, and to retain the grain in the country. A correspondent says that he had seen nowhere anything like the destitution in the village of Avoch.

**March 3.**—There was a serious food riot at Wick, which had to be quelled by the action of two companies of soldiers. After the soldiers had been assaulted with volleys of stones, they were obliged to use the bayonet and to fire, but they acted with consideration, and only a few persons were wounded, and these, it was believed, not seriously. This had the effect of restoring order. In a riot at Thurso the mate of a vessel which had come to load grain was seriously injured. Soldiers were summoned from Wick.

**Ibid.**—Commissioners from the Admiralty held sittings at Inverness to examine witnesses for and against the Harbour Bill.

**March 10.**—There is nearly a column about food riots in Ross-shire, chiefly at Invergordon and in the neighbourhood. About a month previous to this time additional troops had been ordered to Fort-George, but their transport had been so long delayed that the people seem to have concluded that they would not come at all; and so “disregarding or overpowering any civil force that could be brought against them, they prevented at every port the shipment of grain, interrupted the course of trade, and thus inflicted material injury upon farmers and dealers in corn.” Early the previous week, however, a detachment of the 27th Regiment reached the Fort, and a party of 105 men was promptly despatched to Invergordon. This small force had an exciting time. They had to guard strings of carts coming from the district with grain and meal for shipment, and in some cases the



mobs got at the carts before the soldiers, and attempted to seize or scatter the meal. Under military guard, however, shipments were effected and a number of arrests made. The soldiers afterwards went to Dingwall, where their presence prevented disorder. It is mentioned that country people had recently begun to break into granaries and mix the different kinds so as to make them unmarketable, and even unfit for seed. "The injury done in this way has been very great."

**Ibid.**—Mr Forbes of Culloden had made an additional application for £15,000 under the Drainage Act, and had begun the erection of tile and brick works.

**March 17.**—The death is announced of Mr George Sutherland Taylor, of Golspie, in the 51st year of his age. He was local agent for the Duke of Sutherland, and apart from his duties in that capacity applied himself to literary pursuits, particularly to the history, antiquities, and traditions of the North. "When we last saw him he was anxiously meditating a history of the Rebellion of 1715, for the illustration of which the depositories of the Duke of Sutherland had copious and valuable resources, hitherto unexplored. In the last number of the 'Quarterly Review' various extracts are given from Mr Taylor's collections relative to the great Montrose. He contributed largely to Mr Scrope for his work on Deer-Stalking, wrote the articles 'Sutherland' and 'Zetland' for Mr Charles Knight's Cyclopædia, and was one of the most valuable assistants in the New Statistical Account of Scotland. No man was more generous in assisting others in all researches relative to Scottish antiquities and natural history. His information was both exact and extensive." Mr Taylor wrote for the first Duke and Duchess Countess the traditions of the county, and was engaged when he died in a historical account of the family.

**Ibid.**—The Highland dwarfs from Kishorn, who had appeared before the Queen at Buckingham Palace, and in many towns in England and Scotland, were now appearing in the northern towns. They were in charge of a man named William Mackenzie. "Their trip to the south has greatly improved them, not only in personal appearance but in smartness and in-



telligence. They have also acquired the English language, of which they were formerly ignorant." Their performance was considered superior to that of Tom Thumb, exhibited by Barnum. The term of their engagement was almost expired, and they were returning to Kishorn. In our issue of July 10 there is a paragraph with reference to these dwarfs, one of whom is still alive (1908).

**Ibid.**—There is a long article containing extracts from letters and reports on the management of Colonel Gordon's estates in Barra and South Uist. There was a strong complaint that the proprietor had stopped his works at the time when employment was most needed. Colonel Gordon defended himself, but the opinion of the editor was adverse, and he expressed the hope that since the correspondence had ceased Colonel Gordon had resumed his improvements. Unless labour be provided," he said, "the people must starve." The Government had sent supplies to relieve the destitution.

**March 24.**—An old woman named Isabella Gunn, living alone in the parish of Latheron, in Caithness, had been found dead under circumstances which pointed to murder. She was of penurious habits, and was supposed to be worth a little money.

**March 31.**—Mr Hugh Rose, proprietor of Kilravock, and Collector of Banda, in the Presidency of Bengal, died near Calcutta on 30th January. "During a visit to this country a few years since Mr Rose was warmly welcomed by his tenantry and the gentlemen of the North, who looked forward to his final return among them at no distant date as a valuable accession to the society of the district. His premature death has destroyed this hope, and will occasion a deep and general regret."

**April 7.**—"A colony of the red or common squirrel appears to exist in the woods between Inverness and the Aird. Three specimens sent to us, within as many months, from the same district, go far to establish it as a habitation of the squirrel." Before this time, it is stated, there was no mention made of these animals north of the Grampians, or the valleys surrounding them.

**April 13.**—Owing to an acceleration of seven



hours in the arrival of the mail from the south, the paper was now published on Tuesday evening. It was also enlarged, though still consisting of four pages, price 4½d. The issue gives an account of a violent storm of wind and rain which occurred on the previous Thursday. One of the casualties was the partial destruction of the ancient sculptured stone at Shandwick, Nigg, which was thrown down and broken.

**Ibid.**—Three men from Beaully were charged in the Sheriff Court at Inverness with mobbing and rioting in connection with the shipment of grain. They were found guilty, and sentenced to sixty days' imprisonment.

**April 20.**—At the Circuit several persons were tried for the more serious rioting that had taken place at Castletown and Wick. Two men from Castletown were sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment; one from Wick, on account of his youth, got off with eight months. The sentence on another Wick man, whose case was considered more aggravated, was certified to the High Court of Justiciary, the judge stating that his sentence might be affected "by the degree of order which prevails in the county in the meantime." Several cases from Dingwall were remitted for trial to Edinburgh, as the Court had sat for three days, and the Lord Justice-Clerk did not feel warranted in detaining the jury longer. The concluding sitting was on Friday, and the parties from Dingwall had been cited for Saturday.

**April 27.**—There are long extracts from a Parliamentary Blue-book dealing with the subject of a proposed scheme of emigration for the Highlands. The book contains letters from the Marquis of Lorne (late Duke of Argyll). The Government were slow to move, and no definite plan had been adopted.

**May 4 and 11.**—Mr Grant of Bught was appointed convener of the county of Inverness, on the retirement of the joint-conveners, Sir John Macpherson-Grant and Mr Ogilvy. Mr James Augustus Grant of Viewfield was appointed convener of the county of Nairn.

**May 11.**—The works on the Caledonian Canal had been completed, and the Canal was now open from sea to sea. "We are sorry to hear that the undertaking has been by no means a pro-



fitable one to Messrs Jackson & Bain (the contractors). This has arisen chiefly from the great increase in the price of labour and materials during the last four years, over which the contract extended."—Imports of foreign barley, potatoes, and white peas are recorded.

May 18.—Prominence is given to two remarkable announcements. The first is the following order issued by the Lord-Steward of the Queen's Household:—"Her Majesty, taking into consideration the present and increasing price of provisions, and especially of all kinds of bread and flour, has been graciously pleased to command that, from the date of this order, no description of flour except seconds, shall be used for any purpose in her Majesty's household, and that the daily allowance of bread shall be restricted to one lb. per head for every person dieted in the palace." The second is an advertisement signed by seventeen distinguished persons, including the Dukes of Bedford, Norfolk, Rutland, and Grafton, and ten other peers, who pledge themselves on account of the prevailing distress "to reduce in our families as far as practicable the consumption of bread and flour," and invite the co-operation of all others who concurred with them in their estimate of the present emergency. Lord John Russell had delivered a similar homily at the Lord Mayor's feast, which the editor considered the boldest step of all. The London correspondent says that the alarm among the middle and lower classes about the increased and increasing price of bread was very great.

Ibid.—A party of three seamen and a woman, who came to Inverness by the Beaulieu road from Wick, had an extraordinary story to tell. A barque called the "Swan," of Baltimore, bound from Valparaiso to Leith with tallow and hides, and having on board eighteen persons, including three passengers, caught fire off the western islands through the steward letting fall a lighted candle while he was drawing rum. The flames spread so rapidly that the ship was speedily destroyed, and eleven lives were lost. Six seamen and the stewardess, though much injured, succeeded in getting into a boat with



only a few biscuits for food, and drifted about for two days and nights until they were picked up by a vessel off the Butt of Lewis, and landed destitute in Wick. Three of them were left there unfit to travel; the other four (three men and the woman) received some aid from the authorities, and started southward. At Inverness it was found that two of the men were in a deplorable state from burns, while the other had his arm broken. They were conveyed to the Northern Infirmary. The whole crew was American, but the parents of three had emigrated from the Highlands.

**Ibid.**—The issue contains an anecdote which has become classical in the Highlands. A sheep farmer remarkable for the amount of his stock and rates was talking of his doings at Falkirk Tryst, when a companion interrupted him with the remark—"Why, you are making yourself as great a man as the Duke of Wellington." The other promptly replied—"It was easy for the Duke of Wellington to put down his men at Waterloo—some men here and some men there, up and down the fields; but let him try to put down ten thousand sheep, forbye black cattle, at Falkirk Tryst, and it's my opinion he'll make a very confused business of it."

**Ibid.**—It is stated that Mr Williamson, factor for Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown, had ordered the Shandwick sculptured stone, which had been blown down and broken by the recent gale, to be bound up with iron, and re-erected on its ancient site.

**Ibid.**—The Rev. E. J. Findlater, Free Church, Lochearnhead, describes a tour which he had made in Sutherland. The Duke had provided employment for the people in the western districts, where the potatoes had failed, and had also provided ample stores of bread-stuffs and seed potatoes from Norway. He had ordered several hundred head of red deer to be slaughtered to make soup for distribution. His Grace was also promoting emigration to Canada by sending as many families as wished to go there free of expense.

**May 25.**—The Ten Hours Factory Bill, which had passed through the House of Commons after a good deal of discussion, was read a second time in the House of Lords by a large



majority, and its adoption secured.—Food riots had occurred in Cornwall, Exeter, Jersey. In Ireland outrages continued to be perpetrated amidst the ravages of fever and mortality. In the West End of London bakers were charging 1s 2d and 1s 3d for the four-pound loaf, and second class bakers charged 11½d and 12½d.

*Ibid.*—At a recent meeting of the Edinburgh section of the Relief Committee, it was stated that £10,000 would be sent from India for the Highlands alone. The 78th Regiment of Highlanders, who were in India, had subscribed £140 for the relief of Highland and Irish distress.

*Ibid.*—On the farm of Kirkton, near Grantown, the plough struck a flagstone on a light sandy hillock, and the removal of the stone revealed a human skeleton of large proportions. There were two urns described as of rude workmanship but elaborately carved.

June 1.—This issue records the death of Daniel O'Connell, and has an article on his career.—The arrival of wheat from Dantzic had brought a sudden and great fall in price. From Monday to Saturday the decline of price in London was from 15s to 18s, and in some cases 20s per quarter. The supply from Russia was expected to be limited only by the means of conveyance.—Another paragraph mentions the erection of a monument, by permission of the Queen, in the Savoy Chapel, Strand, to the memory of Dr Archibald Cameron, who was executed seven years after the rebellion of 1745. The date of the monument is 1846, and it was erected by Dr Cameron's great-grandson.

June 8.—The death of Dr Chalmers is the chief topic in this issue, and a cordial tribute is paid to the greatness of his genius and character. "His plans, his mode of operation, his conceptions, his style and language, were all original, not derived. He stamped his mind upon the age, and exercised a potent and widespread influence."—The publication of Mr Thomas Tod Stoddart's "Angler's Companion" is made the subject of a long and interesting article.

*Ibid.*—A new mail coach is advertised to run three times a week "between Inverness and Dunvegan, in the Isle of Skye."



June 15 and 22.—Rural notes in these issues state that the crops were promising, and that potatoes "never looked better at this season of the year." Echoes of the riots occur in summary trials and sentences.

June 29.—The announcement appears that Queen Victoria had taken Laggan, in Badenoch, from the Marquis of Abercorn for a visit in the autumn. It was also believed that her Majesty would visit Dunrobin, passing through Inverness. The first announcement was correct, but the visit to Sutherland was put off, and delayed for many years, in fact until 1872. An article on Dunrobin describes the additions which were being made to the Castle, transforming it into a princely residence. A large staff of masons and other labourers were busy at work. The building had been in progress for nearly three years, and it was calculated that other two years would pass before everything was finished. It was noted that the old Castle would still form an important part of the structure. The editor observes that the Marquis of Abercorn's shooting lodge at Ardverikie, on the margin of Loch-Laggan, was on the property of Cluny Macpherson (since then sold to Sir John Ramsden). "The extent of his lordship's Highland shootings may be gathered from the fact that his rental is very nearly £2000 per annum—the deer forest alone being let for £1360." The era of high shooting rents had begun.

Ibid.—A general election was now in prospect, and preparations were going forward. Mr James Morrison announced that he was retiring from the representation of the Inverness Burghs, and Mr Matheson of Ardrross offered himself as a candidate. "There is a strong impression in his favour," we are told, "from his connection with the North by birth, education, property, and other ties. His long residence in China has not deadened his Scottish feelings or weakened his interest in the prosperity of the Highlands, while it has conferred upon him commercial importance, wealth, and distinction."

Ibid.—The representative of an old Highland family, Mrs Grant, late of Corriemoney, passed away in Inverness, where she had resided for some years, enjoying the respect of the com-



munity. Her remains were conveyed in a hearse, drawn by four horses, to the family burying-ground in Clach-Hurridan Churchyard.

July 6.—“The Inverness Municipal and Harbour Bills have been read a third time in the House of Commons and passed. They have also passed the Standing Orders Committee of the House of Lords—so that within a few days, it is probable, our local bills will have received the sanction of the Legislature.” The final stage was duly notified. A Road Act for Ross and Cromarty was also passed.

Ibid.—Sir Colin Campbell, Governor of Ceylon, whose death was recently notified, spent his early days at Fort-George, where his father, John Campbell of Melfort, was Lieutenant-Governor. Sir Colin was one of a family of seventeen, including nine sons, who all served their country. They received their early education in the schools of Campbelltown and Fortrose. Three of the brothers were killed in India, two in the same action; and the only one surviving at this date was Colonel Frederick Campbell, who commanded the Artillery in Canada.

July 13.—At the Wool Market the price of stock was high. As compared with the previous year there was an advance of from 6d to 1s 6d on widders; from 1s to 2s 6d on ewes; and from 1s to 2s 6d on lambs. In wool, however, prices were backward, showing a fall of about 1s 6d per stone. This was due to depression in the manufacturing districts.

Ibid.—The foundation-stone of the Free Church Institution in Inverness was laid on the previous Thursday. At a later date, it came to be known as the High School, and was the predecessor of the present High School. The original buildings now form the Institute for the Blind.

Ibid.—A serious accident took place at the bridge at the Pass of Inverfarigaig. As a carriage conveying a family party was approaching the bridge the horses ran off, and the conveyance, striking the parapet, was thrown with the horses into the rocky stream below. One of the party, a young lady, was killed and the others injured.



Ibid.—A golden eagle was caught in a trap near Knockie, in Stratherrick. The eagle, however, succeeded in drawing out the stake that held the trap, and with a weight of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. attached to its leg crossed and re-crossed Loch-Ness several times. About a month later the royal bird was found dead on the heights of Glenmoriston, about 16 miles from the place where it was trapped.

July 20 and 27.—A new candidate had appeared for the representation of the Inverness Burghs, namely, Mr Hartley Kennedy, a gentleman long resident in India, and in 1847 Chairman of the India and London Life Assurance Company. He was recommended by Mr Joseph Hume, M.P. Meetings at which Mr Matheson and Mr Kennedy appeared are reported in the issue of the 27th. Mr Kennedy announced himself as a "free and independent" candidate. Mr Mackenzie of Applecross had finally resolved to retire from the representation of Ross-shire, without undergoing a contest, and Mr James Matheson of the Lews, who stood in the Liberal interest, was the only candidate. Parliament was dissolved on the 24th inst.

July 27.—It is stated that Mr Matheson of the Lews had purchased Ullapool from the British Fishery Society for the price of £5250.

August 2.—The nomination of the candidates for the Inverness Burghs is reported. Dr Nicol proposed Mr Alexander Matheson, and was seconded by Colonel Mackintosh of Farr. Ex-Provost Sutherland proposed Mr Kennedy, and was seconded by Provost Wilson, of Nairn. There was a great assemblage in front of the hustings, which were erected on the Exchange. The contest had excited keen local feeling.

August 10.—Mr Matheson was elected member for the Inverness Burghs by a majority of 81 over his opponent. There was a majority for Mr Matheson in all the burghs. Mr Henry J. Baillie was re-elected member for the county of Inverness without opposition, and Major Cumming Bruce was also re-elected for the counties of Elgin and Nairn. In the Elgin Burghs there were three candidates—Mr Skene Duff, Sir A. Leith Hay (the former member), and Mr Bannerman.



Mr Skene Duff was elected, the figures being for Mr Duff 242, for Sir Andrew Hay 147, and for Mr Bannerman 192.

August 17.—The election of Mr James Matheson of the Lews for the representation of Ross and Cromarty was a great day in Dingwall and district. As Mr Mackenzie of Applecross had withdrawn from the contest, there was no opposition, but the election was celebrated by a procession, arches, flags, and a dinner. Sir David Dundas was re-elected for Sutherland, Mr Loch for the Northern Burghs, and Mr Traill for Caithness.

Ibid.—Colonel Sir John Macra, who died at Bruiach on the 9th inst., had been at the siege of Copenhagen, at Corunna, in the Walcheren Expedition, in the Peninsula, and in the Mahratta and Pindaree war of 1818. He was also military secretary to the Marquis of Hastings in India and in Malta. In later years he suffered from ill-health, partly the effects of fever caught in the swamps of Holland.

Ibid.—A curious reminiscence of cattle lifting in the year 1689 comes from a Badenoch source. A party of Lochaber men in that year had captured about 120 black cattle in Aberdeenshire, and had driven them as far as Dalunchart, in Badenoch, where they were overtaken by a party of fifty well-armed horsemen. Refusing to give up the cattle in return for "a bag of meal and a pair of shoes" to each man, they were attacked and the cattle recaptured.

August 31.—The issue of the 24th inst., presumably containing an account of Queen Victoria's arrival at Ardverikie, Loch-Laggan, is missing from the file, but the present issue contains details of the visit. Her Majesty was accompanied by Prince Albert and their elder children. Among the incidents was a series of Highland games, given on Prince Albert's birthday. The Queen had a fine new barge placed upon the lake, and six seamen arrived from the Royal yacht to row. "All the outfits of the barge have now come to hand—the brass rods for the support of the canopy, the canopy itself of green silk, with tassels, the oars, and the other necessary appendages. The barge is one of the finest, in its equip-



ments and ornaments, that ever floated on Highland loch, and is worthy to bear the royal lady of the lake."

Ibid.—There is an account of the "encounter in Glen-Tilt," when the Duke of Atholl attempted to shut up the right of way, and stopped Professor Balfour and a party of naturalists. The Duke of Leeds had previously aroused indignation by attempting to shut up mountain passes. There are frequent references to the dispute in subsequent issues.

Ibid.—The crisis in the corn trade was leading to the stoppage of large firms. The London correspondent says—"House after house, of the highest standing, and highest repute for wealth, have come tumbling down to the ground, leaving only wrecks of dividends behind." The collapse was due to the great rise in corn, followed by the sudden collapse of prices, as previously reported.

September 7.—The Queen and Royal Family were still at Loch-Laggan.—Mr Matheson of Ardross had bought an estate in Kintail.—News had arrived of the safe arrival of emigrants from the West Coast of Sutherland at Montreal.—An important show of Cheviot sheep was held at Lairg.

Ibid.—The bodies of two gentlemen, with knapsacks on their backs, were found at the side of the old military road about nine miles south of Fort-William. One was a man about forty years of age, the other about twenty-five. The unfortunate travellers proved to be William Henry Whitburn, brewer at Esher, in Essex, and William Stericker, Fenchurch Street, London. They had started on a pedestrian tour from Ballachulish, and the weather becoming very wet and stormy, they had perished of cold and exhaustion.

September 14.—The work of the Highland Relief Committee was drawing to a close, as it was hoped that the harvest would prove satisfactory. Apprehensions of another failure of the potato crop existed, but the editor says that most of the signs were favourable. "The benevolence and zeal of the public supplied a magnificent fund for relief, and it appears to have been applied with care and discrimination." The Edinburgh Committee reported that the subscription amounted to



£113,749 3s 10d, and the disbursements to £38,202 5s 10d, leaving a balance of £75,546 18s. The balance at the credit of the Glasgow Committee was £39,254 1s 11d, and it appeared subsequently that the total subscriptions at that centre amounted to £71,199 14s 6d. Committees were appointed to consider as to the disposal of the funds.

*Ibid.*—A quotation from a London paper treats of the disaster in the corn market. "Taking the highest rates and those current now, the fall in wheat is no less than 62s per quarter, and on flour 26s per barrel. English new wheat is about 44s to 53s per quarter; and according to a report before us, Indian corn, being at the reduced prices of 22s to 30s, is taken chiefly by pig-feeders, as the cheapest article they can obtain. Indian corn-meal has been £5 to £5 10s per ton. We can scarcely feel surprise after this at the wholesale ruin of firms engaged in the corn trade."

September 21.—After a stay of nearly a month at Ardverikie, the Queen left on the 17th, and embarked at Fort-William under escort of a Royal squadron. The weather had been of a very mixed character during her stay, and a drizzling rain fell on the day of departure. There was, however, an animated and enthusiastic gathering at Fort-William with arches and flags. Prince Albert did not join the Queen until the evening of the 17th, as he had gone to Inverness. The squadron sailed on the morning of Saturday, the 18th. They returned by way of the Crinan Canal. Her Majesty was accompanied by the young Princess Royal, the Prince of Wales, the Marchioness of Douro, Lord Palmerston, &c.

*Ibid.*—Prince Albert came to Inverness on Thursday, the 16th, to visit the town and attend the Northern Meeting. He travelled from Gairloch by the canal route, and was entertained during his short stay by Mr Baillie at Dochfour House. On landing, however, being a little late, the Prince drove forward at once to Inverness, where a great reception awaited him. There was a vast gathering of people, and a procession of Councillors, trades, and Freemasons. An address from the Corporation was presented in the Town Hall—Provost William Simpson presiding. Later, at Dochfour, the Earl of



Seafield, Lord-Lieutenant, presented the county address. One of the features of the proceedings was a gathering of the Clan Mackintosh, a body of 200 men under their chief, who was accompanied by his brother, Aeneas Mackintosh. With bagpipes and ensigns they met the Prince at Tomnahurich Bridge, and formed a lane through which his carriage passed. The men were marshalled in three divisions, at the head of each being a Waterloo man wearing his medals. There was, of course, a large attendance at the Northern Meeting balls, especially on Thursday evening, when the Prince was present. The numbers are given as about 300. "Prince Albert entered the ball-room shortly after ten o'clock. He was dressed in a blue coat, with white vest and black pantaloons, and wore the green ribbon of the Thistle and the collar of the Order of the Garter. His Royal Highness remained about two hours, but did not dance. The reel dancing appeared to be the chief object of the Prince's attention, but he was gratified with the whole proceedings, and repeatedly expressed his admiration of the music, the arrangements, and the general aspect of the ball." The Prince left Dochfour on Friday and rejoined the Queen in Loch-Eil.

September 21 and 28.—On the first date the London correspondent writes—"All is dismay in the city. Failure has followed failure in rapid succession, involving hundreds of thousands in pecuniary losses and difficulties." Two cases are mentioned, one a firm of stock-brokers, with liabilities between them of about 2½ millions. Next week the crisis was less acute, but hopes were premature.

September 28.—It is noted that while Prince Albert was absent on his visit to Inverness the Queen planted two trees at Ardverikie, a larch and a Scotch fir, one for her Majesty and the other for the Prince, in commemoration of their happy sojourn by the side of Loch-Laggan. When her Majesty visited Cluny Castle, shortly before her departure, the chief made his little son, Gordon Macpherson, present the Prince of Wales with a ring, containing a miniature of Prince Charles Edward. Some days afterwards the Duchess of Norfolk received the Queen's commands to



send from the Prince of Wales for the boy a splendid breastpin, consisting of a carbuncle set in diamonds.—The same issue gives an account of a Strathspey gathering held at Castle Grant. For many years these gatherings proved of great interest in the district.

October 5 and 12.—These issues contain reports relating to the Highland Destitution Funds raised in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The total disbursements now come to £82,800, and a surplus remained in hand of £114,000. Uncertainty was felt as to the prospects of the coming year, and various questions were discussed. Ultimately the Central Board adopted a resolution declaring that the funds were raised for the relief of destitution in the Highlands and Islands, produced by the failure of the potato crop of 1846, and they were not entitled to divert the balance of the fund to any other purpose. Meantime, however, they suspended the general machinery of relief, but authorised assistance in cases of necessity; and further authorised the respective sections to take all proper steps with the view of facilitating the migration of labourers from any localities in the Highlands, where there was no demand for labour, to places in the south, where there was such demand.

October 12.—Mr Matheson of Ardross gave £100 for the improvement of the Ness Islands, and other handsome gifts to local institutions. The proprietors of the Caledonian Hotel claimed £300 for damage incurred during the potato riots. They consented to reduce the sum to £280, of which one-half, £140, was paid by the county. The town subsequently paid the other half.—The congregation of Free St George's, Edinburgh, had given a call to Rev. Alexander Stewart, Cromarty, signed by 530 communicants and adherents.—A report by Mr Grant of Kincorth on his plantations on the outskirts of the Culbin Sands is quoted from the "Journal of Agriculture."

October 19.—Financial calamities were multiplying in England. "Commercial people are stunned and stupefied by disasters following at the heels of each other in rapid succession. House after house tumbles down faster and faster, and people rub their eyes and look



about to ascertain what commercial fabric is left standing." Heavy failures occurred in the East Indian trade.

**Ibid.**—At the Inverness Town Council Dr Nicol submitted a report on the Ness Islands. The scheme proposed to cut down some of the trees and to erect two porter's lodges. The cost was estimated at £800. The issue contains long extracts from a book on "Highland Sports and Highland Quarters," by Herbert Byng Hall. It gives an account of Glenmoriston and of a fine breed of deerhounds kept by the proprietor. One of these animals had subdued no fewer than 18 stags, which he had either brought to bay or killed.

**October 26.**—The financial panic was extending, and involving railways and English banks. The cry for relief was again loud in Ireland, "mixed up with cases of agrarian outrage." Continental politics were rapidly preparing the way for revolutionary movements. These began in Switzerland.

**Ibid.**—The Parochial Board of Inverness had a long meeting to consider the question of poor-house accommodation. Dunbar's Hospital was in use for the purpose, and a place which is called Muirtown Hospital.

**Ibid.**—A letter from Calcutta announces the death of the Rev. John Macdonald, Free Church missionary. He was a son of the Rev. Dr Macdonald of Ferintosh. "His worth and piety had endeared him to a numerous circle of friends, by whom his premature death will be greatly regretted." Further notices appear in subsequent issues.

**November 2.**—In consequence of the commercial crisis, the Government had suspended the Bank Charter Act.

**Ibid.**—At the Ross-shire County Meeting a proposal came up for the opening up and improvement of roads in the western districts, from Auchnasheen to Poolewe, Ullapool, and Gairloch. The cost was estimated at a little under £6000. The local proprietors proposed to contribute one-third, the Highland Destitution Committee was willing to contribute another third, and the county was asked to contribute £1600, the western districts providing the balance. The meeting, however, rejected the proposal by a majority of eigh-



teen to fourteen. A long and acrimonious correspondence followed. Several contributors to the Highland Destitution Fund had authorised the balance of their subscriptions to be sent to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

November 9.—The Rev. Alexander Stewart, of Cromarty, died on the 5th inst. A correspondent writes that although he always belonged to the Evangelical party, he was slow to acquiesce in the necessity for the Disruption; and after he had left the Established Church he abstained from all acrimonious feelings and expressions. "The estimation in which he was justly held by those who knew best his qualifications as a minister of the gospel is proved by the fact of his having been chosen to succeed Dr Candlish in Edinburgh. High, however, as was this distinction, it must have had the effect of disturbing his peace of mind. His attachment to Cromarty, and his affection for his flock, were strong, and these coming into conflict with his desire, from a sense of duty, to accept the call to preside over one of the most intellectual congregations of the capital of his country, created intense mental anxiety inconsistent with the enjoyment of good bodily health, and he died, prematurely, after a short illness." Mr Stewart was in his fifty-fourth year. He is the minister of whom Hugh Miller speaks so highly in his "Schools and Schoolmasters."

Ibid.—An entertainment was given by Dr Nicol in the Holm Mills, in honour of the return of Mr Mackintosh of Drummond and Holm from a Continental tour, to take possession of his estates on attaining his majority. Dr Nicol stated that the mills had been originally begun by a powerful co-partnership with a small capital. "They were unsuccessful, and the wreck of their concern came accidentally into his hands when he was a very young man, and totally ignorant of its nature." He added that he had carried it on now for nearly thirty years, and had at length brought it to the state in which they beheld it, producing the fabrics with which the apartments were then adorned. Certain restrictions had been removed by the young proprietor, which would, he believed, add to its usefulness.



November 16.—A change is foreshadowed in the management of the Sutherland estates. Under the existing system extensive tracts of land, capable of grazing from ten to fifteen and twenty thousand sheep, were held by large tacksmen. The second Duke, who had nothing to do with the original arrangement, proposed as the leases fell in to divide the farms into smaller areas, capable of carrying from two to five thousand sheep, and to let them to tenants who would be bound to reside on them. He also proposed to create arable farms of from £50 to £100 rent. These plans were hailed with satisfaction. It is stated that the Duke's expenditure during the past year in feeding the poor and providing employment for them almost exceeded belief; and he had also laid out large sums in trenching uncultivated land on his estate. The late Mr Evander Maciver, factor at Scourie, states in his *Reminiscences* that nearly a thousand people emigrated from the North-west of Sutherland in three years, beginning in 1847. They went, at the expense of the Duke, to Upper Canada and Cape Breton, and Mr Maciver says he received for many years letters thanking him for the assistance given. "Five large ships from Liverpool were engaged; they came to Loch-Laxford, where the emigrants embarked. The cost of this emigration amounted to £7000, and it was well expended money."

*Ibid.*—A number of Highland labourers were now returning home owing to the stoppage of railway works.—A householder in Dingwall was fined for refusing to billet soldiers.

November 23.—Prevalence of fever and anticipation of cholera had occasioned an active sanitary movement all over the country. Under the new Municipal Act the Inverness authorities had power to reform the state of the town, and it seems to have stood in much need of improvement in the poorer quarters. An article on the subject says that in the early part of the year it was not uncommon to see four and five funerals a day leaving certain quarters, "the greater part of this mortality arising without doubt from local causes." The Police Commissioners and the Parochial Board were taking active measures.—A pamphlet by Dr Alison, of Edin.



burgh, on the state of the Highlands is noticed at some length.

November 30.—Parliament was now in session.

It was concerned with the state of Ireland, the commercial crisis, and the necessity for extending the time for the construction of railways.

Ibid.—The editor acknowledges receipt of £237 15s 2d, subscribed in Van Diemen's Land, for the relief of Highland distress.—A new police force was established in the burgh, consisting of 16 men.—A letter gives anecdotes of certain Macraes, who were distinguished in 1715 and 1745 for their strength and valour.

December 7.—“It has been stated in Parliament that throwing out of view commercial failures where the liabilities of each were under £20,000 sterling, there have been since the month of July last no less than seventy-nine failures, the aggregate liabilities of which exceed £15,000,000 sterling.”

Ibid.—The Postmaster-General issued an order to the railway companies to regulate their clocks by Greenwich time, so that one uniform mode of computation might prevail.

December 14.—What is called an illegal combination of journeymen boot and shoemakers occurred in Inverness at this time. The workmen had formed a friendly society, and then turned it into a union which fixed the rate of wages, and insisted on all the workmen in the trade joining them. If any refused they insisted on the employers dismissing them. “They forced the masters to succumb,” but “at last a complaint was lodged with the authorities, who, after due consideration apprehended four of the leaders of the society for contravention of the Statute 6, George IV., cap. 129.” Such was the experience of what seems to have been the first trade union in Inverness.

Ibid.—The grouse season had a poor record.

Disease had thinned the coveys, and the frosts of spring had reduced their food, so that “the birds resorted in great flocks to corn-fields.” Towards the end of the season, however, disease had almost disappeared. Roe-deer had been plentiful. Red-deer, though as numerous as usual, did not carry such size of antlers as in former years.

Ibid.—A violent gale and high tide had oc-



curred, doing much damage and causing loss of life. Eleven lives were lost on the Caithness and Shetland coasts. "From Cromarty we learn that part of the Fishertown had a narrow escape of being swept away by the sea, which inundated the row of houses fronting the beach. Several of the boats drawn up on the beach were destroyed, the surf having been carried from thirty to forty yards above high-water mark. Upwards of twenty vessels ran into the bay for shelter."

December 21 and 28.—Lord Ward continued to refuse a site for a Free Church in Glengarry. His conduct was condemned, but he remained obstinate. At the same time he intimated a contribution of £20 a year to the educational scheme of the Church of Scotland.



## No. VII.

The year 1848 was a time of crisis in Europe. It was the year of Revolution on the Continent. France thrust out the citizen King, Louis Philippe, and most of the other Continental countries threw themselves into the struggle for constitutional change. The immediate results were only partial, but the movement prepared the way for vital changes in subsequent years. In Austria the Emperor was obliged to abdicate in favour of his nephew, the Sovereign who still (1908) occupies the throne. The armed insurrection in Hungary proved for the time disastrous to the patriotic party, as did also the risings in Italy. Prussia and the principalities of Germany had a variety of troubled experiences.

At home there was no real disturbance, but the Chartists in the month of April created great alarm in London by threatening a monster meeting and procession, organised by Feargus O'Connor. The proclamation of the procession as illegal, and the preparations which were made by Ministers and the police, overawed discontent, and the demonstration proved a fiasco. It was on this occasion that 170,000 special constables were sworn in, among them Prince Louis Napoleon, afterwards Emperor of the French. Ireland was in a more excited state, and special laws were passed to deal with sedition and treason. An agitation led by Mr Smith O'Brien and his associates was thus brought to an end. The finances of the nation were disordered, and the Whig Ministry had a good deal of trouble to adjust them to the satisfaction of Parliament. The death of Lord George Bentinck, leader of the Protectionist party, opened the way for the supremacy of Mr Disraeli.

In the Highlands there was still a great deal of destitution, for which the Central Relief Committees had to make provision.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1848.

January 4.—The issue records the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the monument



to Ewen Maclachlan at Fort-William, and describes the improvements that the member for the Inverness Burghs was making at Ardross. Mr Matheson was building Ardross Castle, and began the work of reclamation and improvement. "Since the month of March last he has expended no less than £30,000. This great expenditure has been almost entirely on labour, not on material." The stones for building were procured on Ardross estate. In the building department about 130 men were employed during the greater part of the year; and the average number of labourers in field and wood was 270. The latter were generally the people of the district.

January 11.—The Glasgow Highland Relief Board had reports before it showing that there was a revival of destitution, especially in Mull and the western islands, including Lewis. Complaints were made against Government, proprietors, and people. The Government were delaying to send the drainage money, proprietors were reluctant to assist, and the people in some places were unwilling to work. The Board took steps to deal with the situation.

Ibid.—A correspondent sends an account of a remarkable dream. A lady living in London dreamt that her mother, staying in the South of Scotland, had died from falling from her horse. The death occurred at the time and in the circumstances presented in the dream.

January 18.—Popular demonstrations had taken place in Milan, Genoa, and Pisa, the extension from Switzerland of the revolutionary movement. Locally the issue records the death of the Earl of Moray in his seventy-seventh year. His lordship, who had been kind, courteous, and considerate, was greatly regretted. He had resided for some years wholly at Darnaway, believing that the climate suited his health better than any of his other residences. The Earl died from influenza, which was at this time prevalent in the country. It was severely felt in London.

January 25.—The issue contains a report of the proceedings of the Edinburgh Destitution Committee, and a letter from the Inspector-General, Captain Elliott. The Edinburgh and



Glasgow Committees had local inspectors. There was serious destitution in Skye and in the western districts of Ross-shire. In six parishes there were 1680 able-bodied crofters who had no means to support their families; also 900 widows with families and single widows in the same position. A good deal of grumbling had arisen as to the work-test applied to the able-bodied. Captain Elliott insisted that the real object of the committee should be understood. "It is to prevent starvation—not to advance public works, of however greatly preponderating general advantage they may be. The primary object in exacting work is to test the destitution; and next to avoid the obvious evils of eleemosynary relief." The current wage was 6s a week.

February 1 to 15.—Accounts appear in these issues of the insurrectionary movement in Italy, which at this stage promised success. In the British House of Commons considerable interest was taken in a bill for the removal of Jewish disabilities, the question having been raised by the election of Baron Rothschild for the City of London. The bill was carried through the House of Commons but lost in the Lords. A public meeting was held in Forres in support of the measure.

February 18.—Mr Alexander Stables, factor for the Earl of Cawdor, died on the 7th inst. in his 74th year. He had been factor on the Cawdor estates for thirty-four years, assisted latterly by his son, Mr W. A. Stables, who succeeded him.—Another paragraph records the death of Mr Charles Grant, midshipman, son of Mr Grant of the Caledonian Hotel. He had come home for a short visit, before joining as lieutenant the gun-ship Ocean, when he took ill and died in his 24th year.

Ibid.—"In the spring of last year a liberal scheme of emigration was carried out at the expense of the Duke of Sutherland, as one of several means adopted to mitigate the distress occasioned in the Reay country by the potato failure, as well as to improve the condition of the emigrants themselves. The two ships were chartered and well provisioned, and a gratuity amounting to £2 on the average was given to each of about 380 emigrants, who sailed from the west coast of Sutherland



in June. The whole were carried safely to Montreal, where one party arrived as early as the 30th of July. From Montreal they were conveyed, at the expense of the Government, as far as Brandford, a distance of four or five hundred miles, whence the emigrants proceeded to various townships on the banks of the lakes, where many old friends were met with. The emigrants write home in the most cheerful terms." It was stated that the Duke proposed to make the same liberal arrangements this year.

*Ibid.*—The issue quotes from a Ross-shire paper an account of improvements made on the estate of Bogbain, in Easter Ross. The estate originally belonged to the town of Tain, and tradition said that when St Duthus first came to the district he took up his abode at the spot, but sometime afterwards removed a little further down, where the town of Tain now stands. There seems to have been at one time a hamlet at Bogbain, and the place where St Catherine's Cross stood was still pointed out. The land was long occupied as a grazing ground by the people of Tain. The estate was bought in 1836 by Mr Kennedy, who drained, planted, and cultivated the soil, at a cost of £15,000. The results had been eminently successful. Among other things it is stated that a large space of from 40 to 50 acres, which formerly was a lake from 5 to 8 feet deep, was now the most productive spot on the estate.

*Ibid.*—The Highland Destitution Board had agreed to give one-half of the estimated expense of constructing a road, twelve miles in length, on the south bank of Loch-Maree. The trustees of the Gairloch property were to pay the other half. The cost was estimated at £2500.

February 29.—The Revolution in France, causing the abdication of Louis Philippe, occupies a prominent place in this issue. "Three days of last week," it is said, "the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of February 1848, will be as memorable in French history as the three celebrated days of July 1830." The London correspondent predicted that this convulsion would shake every throne of Continental Europe to its foundation.



*Ibid.*—A Jamaica paper records with much regret the death of Mr John Edwards, Receiver-General of Jamaica. The editor of the "Courier" adds—"Mr Edwards was a native of Inverness, practised some years here as a solicitor, and afterwards filled the important situation of Sheriff-Substitute. His amiable character and agreeable manners, his talents and eloquence, rendered him highly popular and beloved in his native town. His warmest sympathies were connected with the Highlands, and we fondly anticipated his return amongst us to spend the evening of his days in leisure and honour."

March 7.—King Louis Philippe and his Minister, M. Guizot, had arrived in England, though not by the same route. The former came from Havre to Newhaven, the latter through Belgium by Ostend to Folkestone. The moment the King set foot on shore he exclaimed, "Thank God, I am on British ground." A letter from Germany states that the Germans were much excited by the news. They had always misgivings as to the probable consequences of Louis Philippe's death, "but this strange rupture baffles calculation." Several interesting letters from Germany appear about this time, written, we believe, by the late Mr Walter Carruthers, then a young man.

*Ibid.*—A stone coffin enclosing a skeleton was found by men trenching a high knoll in front of Fyrish House, parish of Alness, Ross-shire. The skeleton was entire, the teeth in the lower jaw fresh and white, and not one wanting. An urn was found in the grave, and a small piece of brass (bronze), "apparently of an ornamental nature." It is stated that "Mr Walker, the tenant, had a coffin made of part of the flagstones, in which he placed the bones, and once more committed them to their native rest." Mr Walker was at the time improving his farm by trenching and ploughing from a foot to fifteen inches deep.

*Ibid.*—"The Privy Council has just given a judgment in favour of the Hon. Mrs Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth, in her appeal of a suit raised in Ceylon, for recovery of her estate in that island. By this judgment she regains possession of the estate, with full costs, and large damages in name of profits during the



time she has been deprived of the estate up to the day when it shall be restored."—The same issue publishes the regulations for the distribution of the Highland Relief Fund in Skye. They relate to the labour test and other matters.

**March 14.**—Serious riots had occurred in Glasgow and Edinburgh. There was a disposition to regard them as "Chartist riots," but this was denied. They arose among the unemployed. In London, Manchester, and other places there had also been disturbances, but not of importance.

**Ibid.**—Dr Colquhoun Grant, staff-surgeon to the forces, died at Zante, in the Ionian Islands, on the 3rd January, at the age of 63. He had served in the Peninsular war, and completed his forty-third year in the service. Dr Grant was the last of five brothers who died in the service of their country.

**Ibid.**—Attention is directed to a statement in the "Ross-shire Advertiser" to the effect that notwithstanding the destitution, sickness, and mortality in the Northern Counties, not one of the paupers in the parish of Alness had died during the previous nine months. They were in number 82, many of whom were above 70, and some more than 80 years of age. In contrast to this it was calculated that in Ireland one-fifteenth of the mendicant population had died the previous year of typhus fever alone.

**Ibid.**—At the census of 1841 the number of children in the town and parish of Inverness, including all who had entered their sixth year and had not completed their fourteenth year, was above 3450. The number at this date (1848) in the day schools of every class was only 1700. Hundreds of poor children were to be seen at all hours wandering in the streets. It was pointed out that schools, either free or at the lowest rate of fees, must be multiplied.

**March 21.**—In the Sheriff Court, Inverness, five workmen, journeymen shoemakers, were indicted for intimidating, molesting, and obstructing certain master shoemakers in their mode of carrying on their business, by threatening a strike or compelling them to discharge men in their employment, and by



prohibiting them from importing ready-made boots and shoes from London, Glasgow, or other places. They were also accused of intimidating, molesting, and obstructing certain of their fellow-workmen who did not comply with the rules of their association. There was no charge of violence. The case was taken under the Statute 6th, George IV., and was conducted for the Crown by Mr George Young, advocate-depute, who had come from Edinburgh for the purpose. Sheriff Colquhoun found the charge proven, and sentenced four of the prisoners to two months', and one to one month's imprisonment. An appeal was taken to the High Court.

*Ibid.*—Sixteen persons were drowned on the coasts of Caithness and Sutherland, six by attempting to land in a heavy surf and ten by the upsetting of a boat.

March 28.—The Republican Government in France was having a stormy time, but in addition nearly all the Continental nations were in revolution. Austria, Prussia, Poland, Naples, and the German principalities shared in the tumult. "Every king, elector, hereditary prince and potentate," says the London correspondent, "is either flying from his ancestral palace or negotiating for his personal safety by humiliating concessions of popular rights long and proudly and persistently ignored." Meantime the London police had "little to do except lounge about and chat with the maids in the areas."

*Ibid.*—Mr Smith O'Brien, M.P., Mr T. F. Meagher, and Mr John Mitchell were arrested in Ireland on charges of sedition.

*Ibid.*—A paragraph is devoted to an old Highlander, Kenneth Chisholm, Invercannich, Strathglass, who, it was said, had attained the patriarchal age of a hundred years. He never wore trousers except once when his wife persuaded him to don them on a snowy day, but on his way to the hill he discarded them, vowing he would never entangle his legs in such garments again. He possessed an old gun, which had seen service in 1715 and 1745, and with which at the age of 13 he brought down two deer with one shot—the first shot he had ever fired at deer. At last, however, he was induced to raffle the gun at a shooting match—every shot to cost



4d, with a glass of mountain dew to the bargain. He attended the match himself, carrying the gun, and realised £4 after paying expenses!

April 4 to 18.—These issues contain accounts of revolutionary activity in Prussia, Austria, and Italy. Locally, the news is of slight interest, if we except a proposal from the directors of the Academy for the amalgamation of educational funds in the burgh, combined with a movement for the establishment of a college in Inverness. Afterwards a scheme arose for the extension of elementary education. Rev. Mr Macconnachie was translated from the Gaelic Church, Inverness, to the parish of Glen-Urquhart.

April 18.—“The Chartist demonstration on the 10th of April was a total failure as respects the intimidation of ministers or the design to produce a revolution, but it was a memorable gain as respects the glory and stability of the British Empire.” It was calculated that the gathering on Kensington Common was under 20,000, “including the most in-curious and indifferent of the spectators and bystanders.”

Ibid.—At the Inverness Circuit Court, an effort was made to obtain a reduction of the sentences passed on the shoemaker trade-unionists. The presiding Judge, however, Lord Cockburn, refused to accede to the appeal.

April 25.—A new steamer, the Ben-Nevis, was to be put by the Messrs Burns on the route to Glasgow, and another vessel was in preparation by the same firm. “Inverness owes much to the enterprise of the Messrs Burns, who manage the communication between this and Glasgow, by the canals, with the greatest spirit and liberality.”

May 2.—The Rev. James Mackay, rector of St Michael's Church, Mangatuck, in the diocese of Connecticut, was appointed colleague and successor to Dean Fyvie, of St John's Chapel, Inverness. “What makes his election the more interesting is that we believe he is the first Episcopal clergyman ordained in the United States who has been appointed to a living in Scotland, although the Church in America originally received its



Episcopate from Scotland." Mr Mackay, however, was a native of Inverness, the son of Mr George Mackay, a well-known merchant. In 1851 he divided the vote for the Bishoprick of Moray, but the late Bishop Eden was ultimately appointed. Mr Mackay became an army chaplain in India in 1857, and died in June 1908 in the eighty-seventh year of his age.

*Ibid.*—The previous winter was an exciting one for sportsmen and naturalists, as frequent storms drove aquatic birds to unfrozen arms of the sea. "Among the specimens sent here for preservation we saw a very beautiful wild swan, shot near Nairn, by Charles St John, Esq., author of the *Wild Sports and Natural History of the Highlands*. The bird was the finest of the kind he ever killed. It weighed 27 lbs., measured 8 feet across the wings, and five feet in length; it was the leader of the flock." Several swans were shot at Glengarry; three at Loch-Crinachan, near Glenshiere; and one at Gordonstoun, Morayshire. —The number has a long description of a Ragged School in Edinburgh, which concludes with a suggestion of one for Inverness.

May 9.—A large party of emigrants sailed from Granton for Otago. Before their departure they attended service in Free St George's Church, Edinburgh, conducted by Rev. Mr Sym and Dr Candlish, and an address to emigrants, by the late Dr Welsh, was distributed among them. The vessel was victualled for six months, and a library was provided.

*Ibid.*—"The East India papers, received by the last mail, state with regret that Sir J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus, Chief-Justice of Calcutta, has been obliged to leave the country for home by ill-health. Sir John has been on the bench at Bombay and Calcutta for the long period of twenty years. He embarked for this country on the 12th of March last by the ship *Earl of Hardwicke*. Before his departure a public meeting voted a farewell address and a portrait to him."

*Ibid.*—A correspondent sends an account of a discovery of coins in a remote district of the parish of Edderton, near Tain. They were fourteen in number, and consisted of silver pennies of Edward I. and Edward II. "Could they," asked the correspondent, "be part of



the pillage carried off by the Northern clans who assisted Bruce at Bannockburn?"

May 9 and 16.—The death is announced of Sir Hugh Munro, Bart. of Fowlis, who died on 2nd May in London, aged 85. He was succeeded in the estates by an only daughter, but the title went to Charles Munro, eldest and only surviving son of the late George Munro of Culcairn. The heiress, however, survived her father only eight months, dying unmarried on 12th January 1849. Owing to peculiarities attending Sir Hugh's marriage, there was a long litigation, in her father's lifetime, before the succession was established.

May 23.—There is a quotation from a Cape paper regarding the exploits of Roualeyn Gordon Cumming in South Africa. A long article deals with unemployment and emigration. Outside the distress in the Highland glens the situation was dark. It is stated that in February there were 6000 persons in Paisley dependent on public charity, and trade had scarcely improved since then. In Glasgow it was estimated that 12,000 working men were out of employment. Many people were wandering from place to place in the Lowlands, deprived of labour by the suspension of railway works. The prospects of Australia as a field for emigration are discussed, and quotations are made respecting the work of Mrs Chisholm, a lady known as the Emigrants' Friend.

Ubid.—At the Town Council the Clerk read a letter from the Treasury offering a grant of £400 for the improvement of the Ness Islands, on condition that they were permanently appropriated as a place of recreation for the inhabitants of the town; that a sufficient sum was raised by subscription to complete the contemplated improvements; and that the corporation or some other public body would undertake the upkeep of the islands. Dr Nicol had charge of the scheme, and the Provost was authorised to call a public meeting.

May 30.—The Edinburgh section of the Highland Destitution Board had issued a report. The opinion of counsel had been taken as to the disposal of the funds remaining after the crisis of 1847. It was held to be clear that



no subscriber was entitled to withdraw his contribution; and that if the committee were satisfied of the existence or the probability of destitution in the Highlands, arising from the same causes as before, it was their right and duty to administer the balance of the fund, with large discretionary powers in its application. The destitution in Skye, in the western districts of Ross-shire, and in Shetland, which was severe in 1848, was dealt with. The labour test is explained by the editor. "A whole day's hard labour is not exacted for a pound of meal. The rule practically acted upon is to give the maximum allowance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of meal for eight hours' fair labour; the relief officer having it in his power to give only one pound when the working time is idled away. But a day's honest work also entitles the labourer to half-a-pound of meal per day for every child too young for employment; while the wife, by spinning, or in certain cases by mere attention to personal and household cleanliness, can earn her three-quarters of a pound or pound per day, Sunday included. The section have taken the evidence of the inspectors as to the efficiency of the test, and all concur in recommending strongly an adherence to the principle and the quantity fixed." The Board was also giving its attention to the improvement of appliances for fishing.

*Ibid.*—"We understand that at the judicial sale, on Wednesday, of the lands of Leanach and Balvraid, part of Culloden Moor, the purchaser was George Munro, Esq., for behoof of Duncan Forbes, Esq., Culloden Castle. The price was £2625."

June 6.—Sir Thomas Dick Lauder died on 29th May, at the Grange, Edinburgh, at the age of 64. Sir Thomas married his third cousin, the heiress of Relugas, and resided there for a good many years. He saw the great Morayshire flood of August 1829, and has left a vivid account of it. He was also the author of "The Wolfe of Badenoch" and other works. A student of geology and natural history, he made a considerable mark in his day. Lord Cockburn thus describes him:—"Lauder could make his way in the world as a player, or a ballad singer, or a street fiddler, or a geologist, or a civil engineer, or a surveyor,



and easily and eminently<sup>1</sup> as an artist, or a layer out of grounds." It was his wife's father, however, George Cumming, W.S., who first embellished Relugas, and brought Alexander Wilson from Berwickshire, to assist in introducing improved turnip husbandry. A notice of Mr Wilson appears in our second volume, July 4, 1827. Sir Thomas lived at his paternal residence, the Grange, Fountainhall, Haddingtonshire, from 1831 until his death. For the last nine years of his life he was secretary to the Board of Manufactures and Fisheries.

*Ibid.*—The issue contains the trial of John Mitchel, editor of the "United Irishman," for felony. He was convicted and sentenced to transportation for fourteen years. Mitchel was sent to Bermuda, and afterwards to Van Diemen's Land, but escaped to the United States in 1853. In 1874 he returned to Ireland, and was elected to Parliament for Tipperary, but was not allowed to take his seat. Mitchel died in 1875.

*Ibid.*—A second lot of silver coins of Edward I. and Edward II. was found in the parish of Edderton, in the same spot as the first find. The first lot numbered fourteen, the second eighteen.—A gamekeeper at Applecross had a fight with a wild cat, on whose tail he accidentally trod as she was suckling one of her young. "The furious creature immediately flew upon him with the utmost ferocity, and a very serious combat ensued." Happily, one of the gamekeeper's dogs killed the cat, which measured 4 feet 8 inches from tip to tip, and was one of the largest killed there for many years.

June 6 and 13.—The Edinburgh section of the Central Relief Board had issued a second report, brought up to the end of April. The gross number of recipients of relief in fourteen districts of Skye was rather more than one-fifth of the population. In six of the western districts of Ross, namely, Shieldaig and Kishorn, Applecross, Lochcarron, Plockton, Lochalsh and Dornie, Glenshiel and Inverinate, the number receiving support was 3410, out of a population of only 7300; and of this number the proportion of disabled adults was as 1 to 6.5. In the North-Western districts, including Poolewe and Loch.



broom, road-making was either proposed or was going on, in co-operation with the proprietors. Accounts from the manufacturing districts in England and Scotland showed no signs of improvement. The disturbed state of the Continent was paralysing trade.

June 13.—The "Lays of the Deer Forest," by John Sobieski and Charles Edward Stuart, are noticed at some length in this and the next issue.—A paragraph gives particulars of an old soldier, Ronald Macdonald, living at Rosemarkie, who was said to have attained the age of 102. He was a native of the parish of Fodderty.

June 20.—A scheme for making a road round the Longman was approved by the Town Council. A committee for assisting the unemployed had money in hand, between £100 and £200, which they were willing to devote to this purpose, looking for further assistance from the Town Council. A scheme for improving the harbour was at the same time under discussion.

June 27.—Among the papers printed in the second report of the Edinburgh section of the Relief Board was a narrative by the Inspector-General on the condition and prospects of the people on the West and North-West Coasts of Sutherland. After the disastrous season of 1846 the Duke of Sutherland voluntarily offered to relieve the Board of all care for the tenantry on his estates. Food, money, and the means of emigration were provided. Destitution was for the time staved off at the enormous expenditure of £78,000. "The Duke's whole rental from Sutherland does not exceed £40,000, so that in this one year of suffering he expended double his whole rent, exclusive of the sums disbursed on the building operations at Dunrobin." When the second failure of the potato occurred in 1847, the Duke again came forward to undertake the charge of his whole tenantry, but relief was given under more stringent rules than before. As some appeared to be dissatisfied, and petitions had been forwarded from the Scourie district to the Central Board, the Duke asked Captain Elliot to visit the county to make inquiry. The general result of the report was entirely in favour of the Duke's methods and exertions. Destitution had



been kept from the doors of the poor people by measures unaparalleled in magnitude and administered in the kindest manner. "I hardly trust myself," wrote Captain Elliot, "to express my refreshing sense of the Duke of Sutherland's benevolent intentions, in which he is well seconded by efficient management, much less to contrast his personal interest and efforts with what so harshly grates upon me elsewhere." The Inspector complained that fishing was neglected by the villagers, while boats from the East Coast were capturing ling and cod. He spoke well, however, of the people of Assynt as willing to work, and more skilful in handling their implements than some of their neighbours on the coast further south; but they, too, neglected the fishings, although the Shetland curers were ready to advance lines, and to pay money for the fish. The proprietor had provided schools in every parish, but the attendance was discouraging. Captain Elliot remarks—"It is a curious thing how often my notebook abounds with the observation that any particularly intelligent scholar was a widow's son, generally very poor." Speaking of systems of improvement, he takes occasion to recommend that which was adopted in Gairloch, as "the most satisfactory, successful, and systematic experiment that he has seen." The Duke of Sutherland contemplated some such system for the future regulation of his small tenantry.

*Ibid.*—Mention is made of improvements at St Helena, near Rosemarkie. It is stated that there is a spring called "Napoleon's Well," within a circular enclosure, planted round with shoots from the weeping willows that grew over the Emperor's grave. "These willows were obtained from Mr Maclean of Hawkhill, to whom a plant had been presented several years ago by a medical gentleman, whose love of the curious had led him to bring it to this country."

July 4.—"The terrible revolt in Paris, extending over a period of four days, casts all modern insurrections into the shade." This was a conflict waged between the proletariat and the French Government, in which thousands of lives were lost.

*Ibid.*—A delegate from Aberdeen addressed a



meeting of workmen in Inverness on behalf of trade unions. He repudiated all sympathies with strikes.—The same issue records that the Post-office authorities had put a stop to the mail packet between Dunvegan, in the Isle of Skye, and Lochmaddy, in North Uist, depriving 17,000 people of postal communication. The cause was attributed to a disagreement between Lord Macdonald and Colonel Gordon of Cluny as to their respective proportions of the expense of maintaining the mail packet. It was alleged that Colonel Gordon had paid nothing to the cost of the mail.

*Ibid.*—A circular mound had been opened at the Edracharron Moss, in the neighbourhood of Lochcarron. It contained stone coffins, constructed with great care, and placed at equal distances from each other, enclosing skeletons much decayed. No tradition alluded to this place of sepulture. It is stated that the flags of which the coffins were made must have been conveyed by sea.

July 11.—Comparison is made of the treatment of the starving poor in France and the treatment accorded to them in the Highlands. The Duke of Sutherland, as formerly stated, had spent £78,000 in the famine years; in Skye “the generosity of Macleod of Macleod was scarcely bounded by his means;” in the Lews in 1846-7, Mr Matheson had spent about £40,000, or nearly five times the rental of the island. Most of the proprietors had contributed to the best of their ability.

*Ibid.*—A special meeting of the Inverness Parochial Board was held in the Gaelic Church to discuss the best and most equitable mode of laying on assessments. This was the beginning of an animated controversy on “means and substance” which has now lost its interest.

July 18.—At the Inverness Wool Market prices for ewes and lambs were about the same as the previous year, but on widders there was a fall of from five to ten per cent. This was considered very satisfactory, as the market of 1847 “was rather a remarkable one.” On the other hand, few sales were effected in wool, the staplers holding out for low prices on account of the state of trade.



*Ibid.*—The issue contains a long document relating to a disturbance in Dingwall in 1739. Sir Robert Munro of Fowlis was chiefly involved in it.

July 25.—The Highland Destitution Board had received a final grant of £6148 from the British Association, making in all £77,683, received for Scotland from that Association. The Board, with the co-operation of proprietors, had entered into contracts in connection with the great trunk line of road from Dingwall to Ullapool.

*Ibid.*—The House of Lords gave judgment on the question of drove stances, agitated between the Marquis of Breadalbane and various respondents. The Lords held that the right of the respondents to the drove-stances could not be sustained, and they remitted the case on other points to the Court of Session.

August 1.—The plans of the proposed embankment and road round the Longman had been returned to Mr Leslie by the Admiralty with their full consent and approval. The Inverness Town Council bound itself to undertake the formation of the embankment and road on obtaining a Treasury grant.

August 1 and 8.—The insurrection in Ireland, with which the name of Smith O'Brien is associated, occurred at this time. There was much disaffection, but the rising itself was paltry and suppressed by a small body of police.

August 8.—Sport was expected to be very poor this year, the mortality among grouse being unusually great. The disease was said to be from tape-worm. Mr Wallace, formerly M.P. for Greenock, who occupied Skibo, in Sutherland, suggested that the moors should enjoy a jubilee, as they sometimes did in earlier days. Incidentally, Mr Wallace mentions that he was one of those who first rented moors in the Highlands, "now nearly fifty years since." These moors, he adds, "were the very same as the Queen now rents for Prince Albert, namely, the Abergeldie moors in Aberdeenshire."—The issue contains an article on the vitrified fort of Knockfarrel, near Dingwall.

August 15.—There is a report of a joint cattle show held at Invergordon, under the auspices



of the Farmer Societies of Easter and Wester Ross. Mr Kenneth Murray, Tain, acted as secretary.

August 22.—Mr Alexander Matheson, M.P., wrote to the Provost that he had been unable to obtain any definite answer from the Treasury, as to a grant for the roadway at the Longman. The Treasury, however, was willing to transfer to this object the grant of £400 promised for the improvement of the Islands. The Council agreed to make application for the transfer, as they had not meantime sufficient funds to carry out the arrangement formerly proposed for the Islands.

August 22 and 29.—A great gale had burst upon the East Coast during the herring fishing. On the Caithness coast forty-five lives were lost.

September 5.—A great shoal of whales appeared in the Cromarty Firth. Forty-five were driven ashore near the village of Saltburn, and other twenty-five at various parts of the coast. A large number of whales, however, escaped to sea.—The foundation stone of a new court-house and Council Chamber was laid the previous week, with masonic honours, by Provost Murray of Geanies.—The Free Church Institution at Inverness was now being carried on with Mr Thomas Morrison, A.M., as rector, the commercial department being conducted by Mr Mackenzie, who has been thirty-three years among us, and is well-known for his abilities as a teacher of youth.—Mr John Mackenzie, author of "The Beauties of Gaelic Poetry" died at Poolewe on the 19th ult. He was a native of Gairloch, and is said to have published, edited, or translated about thirty different works, which appeared in the Gaelic language.

September 12.—Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, were now at Balmoral, which afterwards became their Scottish residence. The royal party embarked at Woolwich, and arrived at Aberdeen exactly twelve hours before they were expected. Fortunately the approach of the squadron had been observed, and the Lord-Provost and Magistrates were in waiting.

Ibid.—Mr James Logan, of Norfolk Street,



London, an enthusiast in all that pertained to the Gael, presented a petition to Parliament asking that provision should be made for giving instruction in Gaelic. His object was the establishment of a professorship, and he was understood to be of opinion that the chair should be at Inverness. Nothing followed on this petition.

September 19.—The Northern Meeting was held the previous week (an early date), and was reckoned a brilliant gathering, approaching even 1847, when the Prince Consort was present. The bustle was prolonged into the following week. A paragraph mentions the various steamers and coaches running in summer time, the steamers going on one hand from Inverness to Glasgow, and in other directions to the north-east coast, Leith and London. The coaches ran daily to Dingwall, Caithness, Perth, Fort-William, Aberdeen, and Elgin. "From this enumeration—six steamers and nine coaches, or eighteen if we calculate arrivals and departures—it will easily be conceived that in the golden days of summer (of which, by the way, we have had very few this season) our streets are kept perpetually in a state of excitement, and we make no count of the numberless private travelling carriages that daily rattle over the causeway." The steamer Edinburgh Castle is mentioned as being in command of Captain Turner, "both vessel and captain great favourites."

Ibid.—There is another report by the Edinburgh Destitution Board on its relief operations. According to unanimous testimony the destitution was as great as in the previous year, but relief was more economically administered by a paid staff and under the test system. For instance, under the local committees, the fortnightly distribution of meal in Skye averaged 1280 bolls, while under the inspectors it was 330 bolls. In Wester Ross the figures fell from 938 bolls to 293, including Gairloch and Lochbroom, and in Shetland from 662 to 122. In Skye, since the date of the second report, the greatest number relieved in one fortnight was 5559, betwixt the 6th and the 20th of May, of whom 1310 were employed on roads, 129 at spinning, 448 at



knitting; 1806 attended school, and 1822 performed no work, the great majority suffering from fever and other diseases. On the 3rd of June the total had fallen to 5335, and on 12th August to 4395. Captain Elliot gave the greater share of credit for industry to the women of the island, who had rapidly acquired skill in knitting. In the Wester Ross area 3576 were receiving relief in May, but the number had fallen about half on the completion of agreements for road-making. The prospects of the various districts were not regarded as very promising for the ensuing year.

**Ibid.**—Mr Forsyth, from Dyke, a teacher still remembered by many of the present generation, was appointed to the mastership of Bell's School.

**September 26.**—The sudden death of Lord George Bentinck, the leader of the Protectionists, was a startling blow. He was found dead in a field. The editor described him as "a sort of comet or meteor in the political world," but paid a tribute to his character and sincerity.

**October 3.**—It is announced that owing to a change in the mails, due to a recent acceleration, the "Courier" would in future be published on Thursday instead of Tuesday. The issue also states that Mr D. Macdougall, "who has done so much to popularise the Highland dress," had received an extensive order for tartan dresses, shawls, and plaids for the Queen, and for Highland costumes for the Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Alfred. In the foreign news it is noticed that Prince Louis Napoleon had taken his seat in the French National Assembly.

**October 12.**—Asiatic cholera, which had existed on the Continent, now appeared in Britain. Cases had occurred in London, Hull, Sunderland, and Edinburgh.

**Ibid.**—Smith O'Brien, the leader of Irish revolt, was convicted of high treason. Sentence of death was passed, but was afterwards commuted to transportation for life. O'Brien was released in 1854, and pardoned in 1856. He died at Bangor in 1864.

**Ibid.**—Reports are given of shows at Golspie and Grantown, and a list of prizes obtained



at the autumn exhibition of the Inverness and Northern Horticultural Society. This society was active at the time.

October 19 and 26.—“Insurrection in Vienna and the flight of the Emperor” is the sensation on the first of these dates. The Austrian army had so far triumphed in Lombardy, but Austria itself and Hungary were in the grip of revolutionary forces. On the 26th it is stated that “insurrections and revolutions are now so common that they excite less surprise than a meal-mob did in Scotland fifty years since.”

October 26.—A paragraph records the death of Dugald Maccoll on the 12th of August, at Seymour, Newcastle District, Upper Canada. He was formerly of Kenmore, Lochfyneside, Argyleshire, and one of his sons was Evan Maccoll, author of the “Mountain Bard.” Dugald, the father, is described as a man of uncommon physical strength, and as one of the last in Argyleshire to give up the habitual wearing of the Highland garb. “As a holiday dress he stuck to it long after it had ceased to be worn by all others in Lochfyneside.” He also possessed a rich store of Highland song and tradition.

November 2.—Note is taken of a beautiful model of an Albanian woman, executed in wax, by Lady Ross of Balnagown. “The figure is small, but exquisitely shaped, evincing high artistic skill in the moulding and drapery.”—Two youths were killed by the failure of a crane at the new county buildings in Tain. The accident caused much indignation, as a death from a similar cause had occurred the previous week.—A long report of the Nairnshire Farmer Society shows the kind of work that was then carried on by such associations.

November 9.—Mr Forbes of Culloden had presented to Mr Rose, farmer at Kirkton and at Leanach, a piece of plate, valued at £30, in recognition of his improvements at Leanach. The testimonial bore the following inscription:—“Presented to John Rose, tenant of Leanach, &c., by his landlord, Arthur Forbes of Culloden, to mark the sense he entertains of the skill, energy, and success with which, for the last eight years, Mr Rose has prose-



cuted his extensive improvements on the Cul-loden estate. November 1848." It is stated that Mr Rose entered on the possession of Leanach in 1840, when a considerable portion of the land was useless moor. In draining, liming, and building dykes Mr Rose had expended £6000, and reclaimed two hundred acres of land. "His operations were upon Drummoissie Muir, but he has carefully abstained from any intrusion upon the graves of those who fell on that fatal field." The soil was already producing excellent crops. Mr Rose had also erected a slated farm stead-  
ing at his own expense.

*Ibid.*—Sir George S. Mackenzie, Bart. of Coul, died on the 26th ult., at Kinellan, near Edinburgh, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. Sir George was author of "Travels in Iceland," and of several publications on agricultural and scientific subjects, in which he took great interest. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, President of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, and Vice-President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The editor describes him as "a man of an ingenious and inquiring mind, eager in the pursuit of a favourite topic, and occasionally led astray by mere novelty and paradox." Sir George regulated the rents of his tenantry by the fiars' prices.

*Ibid.*—An account is given of improvements at Ballindalloch, forming the farm of Marypark. —From Achnacarry comes an address presented to Lord Malmesbury, who was the tenant of Lochiel's shootings. Lord Malmesbury in his "Memoirs of an ex-Minister" makes frequent reference to his visits to Achnacarry.—The issue contains a biographical sketch of John Mackenzie, the compiler of "The Beauties of Gaelic Poetry," whose death was formerly noticed.

November 16.—Notices are given of improvements in Morayshire, for which medals had been granted by the Highland and Agricultural Society. The recipients were Dr Manson, Spynie; Messrs Grant, Drumbain; and Mr Lawson, Oldmills.—A report also appears of a crofters' dinner given at Gairloch in connection with a competition for prizes presented by Sir Kenneth Mackenzie for improvements in cultivation.



November 16, 23, and 30.—These issues contain interesting articles on the Kilravock Papers, recently issued by the Spalding Club. On the 23rd there is a description of the new buildings erected in High Street as the headquarters of the Caledonian Bank, and a paragraph reports subscriptions for a monument proposed to be erected on the battlefield of Culloden. On the 30th the death of Lord Melbourne, formerly Prime Minister, is recorded. The same issue reports the outbreak of insurrection at Rome.

November 30.—At a meeting of the Glasgow section of the Highland Relief Board, the report represented the prospects in the Highlands as still gloomy. The potato crop had generally failed, and in not a few districts the people were crowded together without employment or the means of subsistence. The amount in bank at credit of the Glasgow section was reduced to £18,624. Letters were read from Colonel Gordon of Cluny, stating that during the nine years he had held possession of his estate in the Long Island his rental had been £37,407, and out of this he had paid, in endeavouring to improve the condition of the people, £26,983. The Board had spent £513 in sending garden plants and seeds to the district under their charge, and were hopeful of results.

December 7 and 14.—The flight of Pope Pius Ninth from Rome, the abdication of the Emperor of Austria, and the succession of his nephew the present Emperor are prominent topics in these issues. In this country cholera was on the increase, having largely extended in Glasgow and the southern counties of Scotland.

December 14.—In an article on the sporting season it is stated that red deer and roe had been more plentiful than usual, but grouse had fallen below the average. Floods in June had thinned the young broods. Sportsmen spared the birds in order to provide better sport for next season.

December 21.—The election of Prince Louis Napoleon as President of the French Republic excited speculation as to the future. He was then, as afterwards, a "man of mystery." Trouble in Prussia had resulted in the grant-



ing of a constitution which was considered satisfactory.

*Ibid.*—A report of the Highland Destitution contains some figures. The population of the three districts of Skye, Wester Ross, and Shetland, in which there was an organised and regular system of relief, was about 80,000. The greatest number at one time upon the list of recipients, during the time the test was in full operation, amounted to 8562. When the test was only in partial operation the number increased to 13,803. The entire cost of the food directly distributed throughout the whole season was £7888. The funds in hand, when all accounts were paid, would slightly exceed £70,000. Hopeful results had come from the efforts to establish a home industry in hosiery.

December 28.—Attention is directed to Isaac Pitman's system of shorthand, phonography, now so universally practised. It is stated that one of the workers in Dr Nicol's mills, Simon Thomson by name, had studied the system, and was corresponding in it with Pitman.



## No. VIII.

In this year the revolutionary movement on the Continent worked itself out. At Novara the Sardinians, under their King, Charles Albert, were defeated in March by the Austrians under Radetzky, and other ten years had to pass before there was anything like a united Italy. The insurrection in Hungary also failed, the Magyar army, under Gorgey, capitulating in August to the Russians, who had come to the help of Austria. The flight of Kossuth and his associates to Turkey raised an international question, in which Palmerston encouraged the Porte to refuse the surrender of the fugitives. Pope Pius IX., who had fled from Rome in 1848, remained in exile at Gaeta until April 1850, when he was restored by French troops. In India in January 1849 Lord Gough fought the bloody battle of Chillianwallah with the Sikhs, and finally crushed them in February at Gujerat, the conflict ending with the annexation of the Punjaub.

At home the Navigation Laws were repealed, and there was a revived Parliamentary struggle on the policy of Free-trade, which triumphed with the aid of Sir Robert Peel and his friends. The poverty of Ireland was intensified by wholesale evictions, and the Government had to come to the assistance of the District Unions, while suspending the Habeas Corpus Acts. An Encumbered Estates Bill was also brought in for Ireland, along with measures authorising advances for drainage and other improvements, and for the encouragement of emigration. In August Queen Victoria paid a visit to Ireland—the first visit of a British Sovereign for twenty-eight years. Riots occurred in Canada, leading to general attention to Colonial subjects. From this time dates a movement for the improvement of Colonial government.

In the Highlands the month of January is memorable for the great floods which destroyed the stone bridge on the Ness, and inundated the valleys of Strathglass, Strathconan, and other districts. The floods are



described as "the most unexampled and disastrous ever experienced, according to oral and written testimony, in the North and West Highlands." They were preceded by long-continued and heavy rains, accompanied by a remarkable prevalence of lightning. In the autumn an outbreak of cholera occurred in the town, to which Dr John Nicol, formerly Provost, fell a victim. Evictions at Solas in North Uist excited much attention.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1849.

January 4 and 11.—In the first issue there is a letter two columns in length, from Nice, written by Mr James B. Fraser of Reelig, distinguished as a traveller and author. The letter describes the journey through France and Switzerland to Nice, also the town itself and the neighbourhood. The editor begins the year with the hope that 1849 would be more propitious than its predecessor. The revolutionary agitation had spent its force, but there was still agitation abroad and pestilence at home. Though cholera seemed to have been arrested in London, there were many cases in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other Scottish cities, and one case was supposed to have occurred at Craigton, on the Ross-shire side of Kessock Ferry.

Ibid.—The issue contains a long report of a meeting of the Parochial Board, discussing the vexed question of the mode of assessment. On the 11th there is an account of California, "the new gold country."—The Nairnshire Farmer Society had celebrated its jubilee. A review appears of Beattie's life of the poet Campbell.

January 18.—The previous week a disastrous gale swept the east coast from the Firth of Forth northward to John O' Groat's. At Peterhead fifteen persons were swept from the quay wall by two successive waves and drowned. The gale was not felt at Inverness, however, but the *Isabella*, of Beauly, a schooner of 83 tons burden, was lost with all hands near Aberdeen.

January 25.—"The weather throughout the



week has been exceedingly bad. One storm of wind and rain has succeeded another, and lightning has been frequent in the evenings." The Ness and other northern rivers were in great flood. On the night of Wednesday the 24th the Maggot and other low-lying parts of the town of Inverness were under water. The "Courier was printed on Wednesday evening, and, before the impression was worked off, the printing machine was three inches in water.

**Ibid.**—A correspondent sends a communication regarding a monument on the roadside, at Kishorn, in the west of Ross-shire. The legend ran that the monument commemorated the revenge taken by a freebooter, named Kenneth Core, on his wife and brother who had fled together. Kenneth pursued and killed both.

**February 1.**—Columns are devoted to the great flood, which carried off the old stone bridge over the River Ness on Thursday, 25th January. Great anxiety was felt throughout the night, and the bridge fell exactly at a quarter past six on Thursday morning. "The bridge lamps had continued to burn, but all at once the lights went out, a slight groaning sound was heard, the centre arch gave way, and a minute afterwards the whole seven arches at once disappeared beneath the flood, leaving only a portion of the pier and parapet of the arch next Bridge Street, with the lamp attached. The obstruction caused by the fallen materials for a moment forced back the mighty flood. It rose high over the banks, swept up to the houses in Gordon Place, and then as rapidly receded, and the current rushed on, foaming and boiling in frightful waves over the fallen fragments of the bridge." The last person who crossed was a sailor, named Matthew Campbell, who was "two sheets in the wind," and who had barely reached the northern bank when the whole fabric disappeared. A few minutes earlier the grand-children of the Rev. Dr Rose, one of the parish ministers, who lived on the northern, or as it is now called the western side, were sent across for safety under



charge of a servant, but the minister himself, who was preparing to follow, was separated from them by the torrent. It is stated that Loch-Ness rose on this occasion about fourteen feet, an unprecedented rise due to the heavy rainfall on the west coast, in the district watered by the rivers that pour their streams into the lake. A breach was made in the Canal banks above the locks at Dochgarroch, placing river and Canal, near the outlet, at the same level, so that the combined waters rushed down their course of five miles, carrying away the stone bridge, and submerging nearly one-third of the town. By means of ladders and boats the people were rescued. In course of the morning a bridge at the Ness Islands, mostly of iron, was swept away, and cast by the stream on the Capel Insh. It is supposed to have struck one of the pillars of the wooden bridge, at Waterloo Place, but the structure, though shaken, stood the strain, and was protected from falling by a hastily prepared barrier of stakes and stones. All the northern rivers were flooded, inflicting great damage and loss. The bridges at Aberchalder and Fort-Augustus were undermined and fell. Friday morning, however, dawned clear and frosty, and the Ness began slowly to subside. On Wednesday, 31st January, it is recorded that the river "now flows at nearly its usual winter level." The ruins of the stone bridge were partially above the water.

February 8.—Some further details are given as to the result of the floods. Mr Walker, engineer, had promptly come to examine the Canal, and found that all the new works had successfully withstood the strain. Two breaches, however, had occurred in the old bank between Loch-Oich and Aberchalder, and some small breaches between Aberchalder and Kytra, caused by the river running over the Canal banks. The only other breach was at Dochgarroch, about five miles from Inverness. The channel of the River Ness had been deepened, especially from the harbour downwards, where the bed had been excavated by two or three feet. The Ladies'



Walk had been almost destroyed, and the Island were inaccessible. Handsome subscriptions were coming in for relief of the poor, the Highland Destitution Board making a grant of £250.—The issue records the death of Mr J. Smith, factor for Lord Lovat. Two boatmen, named Cameron, perished from exhaustion, near Corpach, on Loch-Linnhe.

*Ibid.*—Parliament had now opened, and the editor writes:—"It is evident that the leadership of the Opposition will be undertaken by Mr Disraeli. There is, indeed, no other Protectionist in the House half so well qualified."

*Ibid.*—"The Corn-Law ceased on Wednesday last, and its extinction was commemorated at Manchester by the leading members of the League, with a large body of the public. . . . The repeal of these laws has, we verily believe, been one main cause of the peace and order which have been preserved in his country, while all others around us have been torn by convulsions and civil war."

*Ibid.*—The following notice appears in the obituary column:—"At Nairn, on the 9th ult., Alexander Dallas, Esq., aged 86. He was distinguished by all that gives life its true character—sterling integrity, warm benevolence, and sincere and undeviating Christian principles. He was the last representative, in the direct male line, of the ancient and respectable family of the Dallahs of Cantray, resident there since May 1400."

February 15.—The London correspondent draws attention to pictures in the "Illustrated London News" giving a vivid representation of the flood at Inverness, and to the description which accompanies it. The correspondent, Mr Roderick Riach, an Inverness man, says that the writer of the description had fallen into a common error "in stating that the old high-roofed house, the inn next to the defunct bridge, is part of Queen Mary's residence, which she occupied on her visit to the Highlands in 1564 [1562.] It did not exist till a century and more afterwards. The date on the building, 1678, is the date of the erection,



and I always understood that it was built by John Forbes of Culloden. The old wine-shop—Provost Ferguson's premises—is the genuine Queen Mary Mansion." The correspondent goes on to say that when the wine-shop had its two turnpike stairs, its antique windows, peaked gables, and venerable front, it had a look of hoar antiquity, and he regretted that it had been modernised. It was only in the strong walls of the interior that one could see any smack of the olden time, and the writer wished "that the old picturesque house had been left in its ancient glory." Probably in the interests of accommodation this was impossible.

*Ibid.*—During the trenching operations carried on the previous season on the estate of Ardross, in Ross-shire, two stone moulds were found near the inn of Stittenham. They were made of a peculiar sort of stone, and were supposed to have been used for the casting of battle-axes. "The moulds are now in the possession of John Baigrie, Esq., Ardmore, factor on the estate of Ardross, who has had several casts in stucco made from them. The moulds were found about sixteen inches under ground, and near to the spot was a small enclosure, containing ashes, and apparently the spot (so conjectures our correspondent) where the weapons were cast."

*Ibid.*—A commodious building, erected by Mr and Mrs Matheson of the Lews for an industrial school, was opened at Stornoway on 16th January.

February 22.—A report was submitted to the Edinburgh Section of the Highland Destitution Committee, which gave a favourable account of the results of their policy for the previous year. The funds at their disposal would enable them to continue an organised system to the end of the season; but they did not think that the balance at the disposal of the Central Board at the end of 1849 would enable the two sections to afford relief for another year. The section voted a grant of £12,000 to the Glasgow section to enable them to conclude their operations this year. It was stated that the expenditure of the Glasgow sec-



tion during 1848 was £28,693, leaving a balance in their hands of £17,049 16s 4d, and the committee anticipated that the expenditure this year would be much the same as in 1848.

**Ibid.**—Mr A. Mackay, a native of Inverness, had just published a book on America, which he entitled "The Western World." The London correspondent says, perhaps with pardonable exaggeration, that "after Macaulay's History it is the book of the season." There are several notices of it in subsequent issues. The work, in three volumes, can still be read with interest.

**Ibid.**—The death is announced of the Rev. Mr Stark, minister of the United Presbyterian Church in Forres, a clergyman long held in great respect. "Mr Stark was inducted to his charge in 1802; his pastoral care of his attached congregation has therefore extended over the long period of forty-seven years."

**Ibid.**—"In consequence of the notice which appeared lately in our columns, we have been informed that the family of Dallas, so long resident in Cantray, has a living representative in the person of Robert William Dallas, Esq., the only son of the late Right Hon. Sir Robert Dallas, Lord Chief-Justice of the Court of Common Pleas."

**March 1.**—The death is recorded of the Rev. Charles Fyvie, Dean of Moray and Ross, which took place in his fifty-third year. He had been very kind to the poor, and there was a large attendance of all classes at his funeral.—A Calcutta paper pays a high tribute to Captain Dallas, of the Hon. East India Company's service, son of Mrs Dr Dallas, Inverness. He held the appointment of Secretary to the Military Board, and had been through the Afghan Campaign from 1838 to 1842.

**Ibid.**—In consequence of the fall of the Inverness Stone Bridge, a ferry-boat service had been started near the site of the bridge. It was intended to establish another near the Northern Infirmary.—The issue reports a meeting of the Inverness Parochial Board, which sat in the Gaelic Church from eleven o'clock forenoon till three next morning, discussing the basis of assess-



ment. With adjournments, the meeting had lasted three days.

March 8.—Mr Walker, civil engineer, in his official report, expressed a decided opinion that the Canal had nothing to do with the losses inflicted on Inverness by the flood. There was some talk of legal proceedings on the part of the town. Meanwhile the magistrates had advertised for contracts for a temporary wooden bridge.—Cases of cholera had appeared at Stornoway.—A collier vessel, the Dorothy of Nairn, had been lost off the Fern islands on the 20th ult.

March 8 and 15.—These numbers contain accounts of the battle of Chillianwallah, which Lord Gough fought with the Sikhs under hasty and disadvantageous conditions. The British loss amounted to 2000, including 26 officers killed and 66 wounded.

March 22.—There is an account, condensed from the Transactions of the Highland Society, of land improvements carried out by Mr J. Mackintosh, Auchnacloich, near Nairn. The Society awarded Mr Mackintosh a gold medal.—Cholera had appeared at Campbelltown, Ardersier.—The death of an army pensioner at Tain, locally known as the "Pew," is the subject of a notice. The man perambulated Scotland in pursuit of some fairy tribes, which he called "The Pews," and attracted attention by his eccentricities.

Ibid.—The ferry over the Ness had been rendered convenient by an ingenious contrivance. "Large posts have been fixed on the bank on each side, and landing quays constructed. From two of the posts a stout rope spans the river. A block travels across this rope, and the boat is attached to it by a short line. The boat is thus held to the rope, and the strength of the stream acting on the keel and the helm is sufficient to carry boat and passengers from the one side to the other in less than a minute."<sup>2</sup>

March 29.—The total number of cases of cholera at Campbelltown is reported as 34, of which 11 died.

April 5.—In removing rubbish for the foundation of a new breast-wall opposite the house at the end of Bridge Street, In-



verness, known as "Tolmie Castle," the contractor found a curious old stone buried six or eight feet beneath the old roadway. "It is a Redcastle stone, of triangular shape, and has the town's arms well cut on it, with the word 'Invernes.' On the top is a large three-headed Scotch thistle, and the camel and the elephant (supporters of the town's arms) occupied the centre of the stone. The stone seems to have occupied a place over some window, as it resembles in shape those above the windows of 'Tolmie Castle,' but conjecture is at fault as to the house of which it formed a part."

*Ibid.*—The River Ness, which was in such flood in January, was now exceptionally low. The ferry boat could hardly find water enough to float it, and little boys waded from bank to bank, the stream hardly reaching their ankles. Men and women also frequently cast their shoes and waded across. "The river, as it passes through the town, is now little more than a succession of shallowed pools, in which the ducks delight themselves, connected by a small thread of running water; and the long gravel banks and stony shallows, bleached white in the sun, where the river swept along grand and deep, present an extraordinary and not altogether pleasing sight." The state of the river was due to the fact that Loch-Ness had been gradually lowered by the running of water through the broken canal bank at Dochgarroch; and when this had been stopped by piles and earthwork, only a small portion of water percolated from the lake through the gravel and amongst the stones beneath the weir. At the moment the level of Loch-Ness was more than two feet below the lowest part of the weir.

*Ibid.*—The contractor for the jail, Mr Bain, by arrangement with the Town Council, was busy removing the stones of the old bridge. "Large masses of the centre arches had adhered together, but under the hammers of the labourers they are fast disappearing. The old bridge having been built for the most part of small stones, the destruction has been complete, and many



of the stones have been carried down a very long way. From the position of the stones of the small southern arch, Mr Bain is of opinion that it first gave way; the whole force of the current having been directed against its foundations next the street undermined it, and caused it to spring." In course of the operations for replacing the breast-work at the foot of Bridge Street, the workmen came on a flight of stone steps, about six feet broad, leading down to the bed of the river. On the other side of the river, exactly opposite the steps, the fall of the bridge disclosed an ancient gateway, also leading to the river. "It consists of two narrow towers, with handsome projecting Gothic corbels, leaving a passage of about six feet in width, defended by a gate, the marks of which appear. The corbel on the west side has been roughly cut away, apparently to admit the passage of some unusually large body." The remains were believed to be older than the date of the wooden bridge, which fell in 1664. They were not unlike the work of the religious orders before the Reformation. It was conjectured that they were constructed when communication across the river was by a boat, or a bridge of boats, or perhaps that there was a raised ford. Several piles of the wooden bridge had been laid bare, eight or ten yards further down the river. "The stone bridge had been erected on the site of the original ford or ferry, the towers on the west side as an abutment for the bridge, and the stairs on the east side being covered up when the roadway was formed."

*Ibid.*—News had arrived of the final defeat of the Sikhs by Lord Gough.

April 12.—The Free Church Presbytery of Inverness had agreed to the translation of the Rev. Mr Maclauchlan from Stratherrick to the Gaelic Church in Edinburgh.—Vessels were again making the passage of the Caledonian Canal from sea to sea.—The cholera had disappeared from Campbelltown, Ardersier.

April 19.—The Rev. Dr Macdonald of Ferintosh, "for a long period one of the most



popular and influential ministers in the North of Scotland," died on the 16th inst., in the seventieth year of his age. An interesting biographical sketch is given of the deceased, but as his life was published by the late Dr Kennedy, and is also given in the volume of Biographies of Highland Clergymen published at this office, it is unnecessary to go into particulars.

April 19 and 26, and May 3.—Cholera had appeared in Inverness, and ten deaths had occurred before April 26. On 3rd May there was a clean bill of health. Many suggestions were made for sanitary improvement.—The erection of a foot-bridge across the Ness had begun. A silver half-penny of Edward I. was found among the ruins of the old bridge.—A review of the "Life of the Rev. John Macdonald, A.M., late missionary at Calcutta," a son of Dr Macdonald of Ferintosh, appears on April 26th.

May 10.—A fine barque, the Invermore of Plymouth, about 550 tons register, and drawing about 19 feet of water, was in the Canal basin. She had come from Callao, Peru, with a cargo of guano, being the second direct consignment within a few weeks. This was regarded as a sign of northern agricultural enterprise.—A small flock of Cheviot sheep, reared by Mr Moffat, Bahulick, Beauly, attracted attention. They were perfectly black, with the exception of a white neck, "very much like a minister's white neck-cloth," and two streaks, one on each shoulder. The lambs were spotted black and white like carriage dogs.—An advertisement appears announcing the speedy appearance of a new journal, "The Inverness Advertiser."

May 17.—A schooner, the "Lady Ann," was launched from a building-yard in the Merk-inch.—At the annual meeting of the Trustees of the Findhorn Suspension Bridge it was resolved to appropriate the accumulated funds in the treasurer's hands, amounting to upwards of £2000, in paying off the original subscriptions. The debt of the Trust had been previously cleared off.—There is a long notice of "Clement Lorimer," a novel by Angus B. Reach.

May 21 and 31.—It was expected that the



new foot-bridge across the Ness would cost about £500, to be raised as far as possible by subscriptions. There was a proposal to levy a pontage, which excited opposition. On the 24th a report is published on the late inundation of the town drawn up by Mr Leslie and Mr Joseph Mitchell, civil engineers. The reporters came to the conclusion that the Canal works had materially tended to increase the floods on the River Ness, and that the community had a good claim for compensation for the loss of the bridge and other damage, as well as a right to insist that measures should be adopted to avert the recurrence of similar calamities.

May 31.—An advance party of the French expedition to Rome had met with a check on the 30th of April, the circumstances of which are described in a private letter written by Mr J. B. Fraser of Reelig, who was then in Rome. The Roman Republicans, he said, had called in "a troop commanded by one Garibaldi, a sort of free captain like the ancient condottieri, who had got together some 1000 or 1200 men, and had been stationed on the Neapolitan frontier. . . . We saw them march in—many most wild and truculent looking savages; but there were others whose manners, when they spoke to us, showed a most unexpected urbanity, and proved that this free life had attracted many heedless young men of a superior class."

June 7.—Sir David Dundas, appointed Judge-Advocate-General, was re-elected M.P. for the county of Sutherland.

June 14.—The county prison on the Castle Hill, the foundations of which were laid in June 1846, was now completed and occupied. The building was designed by Mr Brown, architect to the General Prison Board.—A new coach between Dingwall and Kessock, over the Mulbuie, was about to begin running.—A design had been prepared by Mr Mackenzie, architect, Elgin, for the proposed Culloden monument. "The idea," says the editor, "is original, and the model is engaging; but we are afraid the design is too gigantic for the funds—for the coffers are by no means liberally



supplied."—A number of small cottars on the estate of Gleneig, belonging to Mr Baillie, had applied for means to emigrate to America, and the proprietor had supplied funds with which vessels were to be chartered.

June 21.—The estate of Glen-Nevis, near Fort-William, was purchased by Sir Duncan Cameron of Fassifern for £31,500.—The new timber foot-bridge over the Ness had been opened free to the public. A memorial from the inhabitants was in course of signature to the Home Secretary, asking for redress for the destruction caused by the recent flood, and for protection against a similar calamity.

June 28.—The Marquis of Stafford, eldest son of the Duke of Sutherland, was married on the 20th inst. to Miss Hay Mackenzie of Cromartie. The marriage was celebrated by special licence at Cliveden, the villa residence of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland.

Ibid.—A report submitted to the Edinburgh section of the Highland Destitution Board stated that the distribution this year greatly exceeds that of the preceding year. The list of persons receiving aid in the southern part of Wester Ross, to which direct relief was now confined, reached the number of 1740 out of a population of 10,000 and in Skye the number was 8162 out of a population of about 25,000. Compared with the previous year the total in Skye had increased upwards of 3000. The prospects for the coming year were also gloomy, as potato disease had already made sad ravages. The highest number relieved in Shetland was 1342.

Ibid.—A Badenoch character, known as "Black Angus," who had the repute of a warlock, had just passed away. People were long in the habit of propitiating his favour so as to prevent ill to their cattle or to induce him to effect cures. Latterly, however, the superstition decayed, and Black Angus came upon the Parochial Board.

July 5.—The death is announced of Mr Thomas Lockwood, Huddersfield, well known in Scotland as an extensive wool-



stapler and wool-buyer. "Mr Lockwood made his first journey to Scotland to purchase wool in July 1788. He was then only a lad of fourteen, and he rode all the way from Yorkshire to Jedburgh on horseback. From that time to the present he never missed his summer journey to Scotland; and he had attended our wool fair every year since its commencement." In 1844 the proprietors and farmers of the northern counties presented him with a piece of plate in token of their appreciation of his integrity.

July 12.—After a long siege Rome surrendered to the French troops under General Oudinot. Garibaldi, however, had quitted Rome with 5000 or 6000 men. It may be added here that he was ultimately arrested by order of the Sardinian Government, and compelled to leave Italy.

July 19.—Mr John Hay Mackenzie of Cromartie died at Cliveden on the 9th inst., a few weeks after the marriage of his daughter to the Marquis of Stafford. He had been for some time in declining health. "He was warmly esteemed as a landed proprietor and county gentleman."

Ibid.—Cholera was again very severe in London. Some cases had also occurred at Findhorn, in Morayshire.

Ibid.—On the 13th inst. the barque Liscard sailed from Loch-Hourn for Quebec, with 314 passengers, emigrants of various ages, from the estate of Glenelg. They proposed to join their countrymen in Canada, where there was a district named Glenelg, with a Gaelic-speaking population. The proprietor, Mr James Evan Baillie, had cancelled arrears of rent and provided the means for emigration.

Ibid.—The annual Wool Market was a stiff one. Cheviot widders, as compared with last year's prices, were down from 4s to 5s; ewes from 2s to 3s 6d; lambs about 2s. On the other hand Cheviot wool, which sold last year at 11s and 11s 6d, sold this year freely at 15s and 16s. Most of the blackfaced stock was reserved for the Fort-William market, but when this came off there was a fall of from 2s to 3s.



July 26.—This issue contains the first notice of evictions which took place at Sollas in North Uist, and created much excitement at the time. The property belonged to Lord Macdonald, who offered to convey the people to Canada, but they declined to remove. They were said to be very poor and many of them in arrear of rent. Mr Patrick Cooper, commissioner for Lord Macdonald, and Mr Shaw, sheriff-substitute, accompanied by sheriff-officers, went to the island to persuade the people to accept summonses, but the sheriff-officers were deforced. Mr Shaw was popular among the people, and they said they would not hurt a hair of his head, but they threatened instant death to any officer who should attempt to eject them. They said it was too late in the season to go to Canada, even if they were willing to remove.

Ibid.—An account is given of improvements on the farm of Piperhill, Cawdor, occupied by Mr Mackillican, an enterprising tenant. Mr Mackillican possessed no fewer than six silver medals, won in competitions from the Highland Agricultural Society.—The Shandwick sculptured stone, in Ross-shire, blown down and broken by a gale in May 1847, was still in a fallen state. The steps taken for its erection had not been completed.

August 2.—Many tourists were arriving in Inverness, including several parties of French and Germans. Eight steamers were constantly arriving and departing—three on the canal, three on the east coast line to the Firth of Forth, one to Sutherland, and one to London. Eight coaches were arriving and departing daily, besides a mail gig through the Black Isle.

Ibid.—Operations had begun for the construction of a drive round the Longman. "The road commences at the Citadel, and passes round the point to the junction with the road leading from Rose Street. Its width is to be twenty-one feet, as originally proposed, so that the drive will be wide and easy for carriages." The cost was to be over £1000, to be defrayed by a sum granted by Government, a large subscription made through Mr John Macken-



zie, Ness House, a sum from the town, and a payment by the Harbour Trustees for the removal of gravel from the river, to be used in the construction of the embankment and the roadway. The embankment was expected to add from twenty to thirty acres to the town-lands at the Longman.

*Ibid.*—Six young men lost their lives near Lochs, in the Lews, by the upsetting of a boat belonging to the Rev. Mr Finlayson, Free Church minister there. Two of the young men were sons of Mr Finlayson, and a third was a son of Captain Macaulay, Stornoway.

August 9.—A special reporter went from the "Courier" to give an account of the steps taken for the removal of the people from Sollas in North Uist. All the circumstances, with statements by the people and the officials, are published in detail. Sheriff Colquhoun, Inverness, and the Fiscal, Mr Mackay, went to the island, accompanied by sheriff-officers and a force of thirty-three constables, under charge of Mr Macbean, superintendent of county police. Mr Cooper, commissioner for the proprietor, expressed his intention to proceed with the ejection of all the people in the district of Solas, unless the offers previously made as to emigration were agreed to. According to his own statement, the district contained a population of 110 families, consisting of 603 souls. The people were in a state of great excitement, and at various times came into collision with the official party, women being the chief assailants. Four men were arrested. Ten houses were unroofed and the families turned out, but at this point the party paused. The Rev. Mr Macrae, parish minister, did his best to pacify the people, and the officials acted with restraint. In the end the heads of families signed a paper promising to emigrate to Canada at any period from the 1st February to the end of June in the following year, on the terms and with the assistance formerly promised; or at least that they would then leave the Macdonald estates. The people acknowledged that they did not wish to remove,



but they complained especially that they were expected to go at a time of the year when they would be sure to suffer hardships in Canada. On the part of the proprietor it was stated that the rental of the townships was £382 sterling, but that the arrears amounted to £624. "For the last two years," wrote the Commissioner, "a great part of these people, after exhausting their crops, have been aided by the Highland Destitution Committee, and the proprietor; and at present they are living on meal furnished by the proprietor gratis." The Highland Destitution Committee had agreed to assist the emigrants to the extent of 20s for each adult, and 10s for each person under fourteen years of age. Lord Macdonald had offered to remit arrears and take crop and stock at valuation; to supplement the assistance of the Highland Committee by whatever additional sum was necessary to convey the people to Canada; and to send a person with them to see them comfortable, and help the necessitous with clothing. The people, however, alleged that they had been treated with scant consideration, that the notice had been insufficient, and that no definite offer had been made as to the quantity of clothing to be furnished. They said that friends in Canada had warned them against going at that time of the year.

*Ibid.*—Emigration was taking place to a considerable extent from South Uist, chiefly from the property of Colonel Gordon of Cluny. A large Clyde ship, the *Tusker*, sailed from Loch-Boisdale for Quebec, with 500 souls, and a second ship was to sail later with 250. Colonel Gordon assisted by taking the crop, and the emigration agent at Glasgow by taking the stock, both at valuation. The Glasgow section of the Destitution Committee also assisted some of the more destitute. The people went away willingly, being represented as indeed anxious to leave.

*Ibid.*—Sport on the moors was promising. The list of shootings published as having been let numbers over 130. The weather in the opening weeks, however, proved unfavourable.



August 16.—Sir Robert Peel had taken the shootings of Eilean Aigas, and the previous week, accompanied by his wife and daughter passed through Inverness, where he had a cordial reception. On Sunday the party attended the parish church of Kil-morack, and witnessed a communion service in the open air.

August 23.—A meeting at Inverness, for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the Hungarians, is reported.—A circular issued by Mr Martyn Roberts, Commissioner for Lord Abinger, on the subject of improving the cultivation of crofts, is discussed.—Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, after a visit to Ireland, had come to Balmoral, having arrived from the sister isle by way of Glasgow.

August 30.—A deputation from the Inverness Town Council, which had gone to London, reported their belief that the claim made by the town on the Government for a new bridge was under favourable consideration. It appeared that the Government had already offered £4000.—The marriage of Arthur Forbes of Cul-loden, to Miss Louisa Warrand, second daughter of the late Dr Warrand of the East India Company's service, took place on the 28th inst. The rejoicings on the Culloden estates are reported.

September 6.—The handsome buildings for the Caledonian Bank in High Street were completed externally by the placing of a handsome vase on each of the two vacant pedestals on the right and left front of the buildings. On one vase was a medallion of Queen Victoria, on the other a medallion of the Prince Consort, each set in a wreath of flowers. The models were prepared by Mr Park, sculptor, and the likenesses were acknowledged to be excellent.

Ibid.—Sergeant John Macpherson, a veteran soldier living in Kingussie, was proud of a gift and a letter he had received from Sir Robert Peel. The letter was dated from Eilean Aigas, and was as follows:—"Dear Sergeant Macpherson—I think it is just thirty years since we met at Pitmain; but I assure you that I have not forgotten you,



and that I heard with great pleasure on passing through Kingussie on Thursday last that you were in good health. Pray accept the enclosed for the sake of 'auld lang syne.' Sergeant Macpherson had served with Sir Ralph Abercromby, and was wounded at the battle of Aboukir in 1801. He was one of the four sergeants who accompanied Abercromby's remains to Malta. Afterwards he was employed with the Duke of Gordon as head game-keeper in Badenoch. It was in 1819 that Peel paid a visit to Pitmain—his first visit to the Highlands—along with the Marquis of Huntly. The latter ordered Macpherson to accompany his guest to the Moors of Coryduer above Kingussie. As these moors were generally reserved for the Marquis himself, Macpherson, thinking it was one of his lordship's jokes, hesitated for a moment, and the Marquis observing this repeated the order, adding—"Show the young gentleman the best part of the moor, for I will not be surprised to see him yet Prime Minister of England." Macpherson was delighted that Sir Robert remembered him, and sorry that he was out fishing when the ex-Premier passed through Kingussie.

September 6 and 13.—Cholera had again broken out in Inverness, and in two weeks there had been 27 deaths. The disease was very virulent in London.

September 13.—The Rev. Mr Macrae of Knockbain, a well-known and influential minister of the Free Church, had accepted a call to the Gaelic Free Church of Greenock. He is described as "a great favourite in Ross-shire, and a man of indomitable energy." Traditions of Mr Macrae still linger in the Highlands.

Ibid.—Gorgey, the Hungarian military chief, had surrendered to the Austrians, and Kossuth and other leaders were in flight.

September 20.—The preceding day the foundation stone of the Culloden monument was laid on the battlefield with masonic honours. Sir Robert Peel had been asked to perform the ceremony, but declined, although he expressed appreciation of the proffered honour and had pre-



viously sent a donation of £5 to the funds. There was a procession from Inverness, led by a band of music, and including the six Incorporated Trades and masonic deputations. The stone was laid by Mr William Anderson, R.W.M. of St John's Operative Mason Lodge of Forres. The monument, which was designed by Mr Mackenzie,, Elgin, was intended to be a gigantic cairn, with flights of rustic steps leading to the top. It was hoped that tablets and memorials to clans and individuals would occupy places in it; also that a group of statuary would be placed in front. "In this respect, however," the report adds, "everything depends on the public. The subscriptions received will not complete the bare design, and the question of statuary is in the first place a question of money." As a matter of fact the monument was never completed or indeed carried very far. A portion of it remained for years in a semi-ruinous condition. The present memorial cairn was erected by the late Mr Duncan Forbes of Culloden in 1881.

*Ibid.*—The four men arrested in connection with the disturbances at Sollas, North Uist, were tried at the Inverness Circuit Court on the 13th inst. They were accused of mobbing and rioting, obstructing, deforcing, and assaulting officers of the law in the execution of their duty. After trial, the jury, by a majority, returned a verdict of guilty, but "unanimously recommend the pannels to the utmost leniency of the Court, in consideration of the cruel, though it may be legal, proceedings adopted in ejecting the whole people of Solas from their houses and crofts, without the prospect of shelter or a footing in their fatherland, or even the means of expatriating them to a foreign one." The presiding judge, Lord Cockburn, said this was not a case requiring severe punishment, and he passed sentence of four months' imprisonment. "Much sympathy," says the editor, "was felt for the poor men—ignorant of law, ignorant of English, and acting from the strong impulse of untutored feeling." Mr Cooper, the Commis-



sioner, afterwards wrote that he had given the people ample opportunity of obtaining a free passage to Canada in the second week of July, but they had refused.

*Ibid.*—The freedom of Dingwall was presented to Mr J. M. Juner, S.S.C., Edinburgh.—Some interesting notes on Erchless Castle, Strathglass, are given in this and other issues.

September 27.—Cholera was still severe in Inverness, and some cases occurred in other parts of the district. The severest blow was the death of Dr John Inglis Nicol, the leading practitioner in Inverness, who was carried off by the disease at the age of 61. Dr Nicol was not only an eminent physician but also a spirited citizen, a scientific agriculturist, and a woollen manufacturer. "His farm at Campfield was the scene of many experiments for improving cultivation and testing the value of manures and different species of crop." For some years he was Provost of Inverness.

*Ibid.*—The Northern Meeting was not so well attended this year on account of the presence of cholera.—The Commissioners of Woods and Forests had entrusted the keeping of Beaully Priory to Lord Lovat. The area surrounding the building was now much improved.

October 4.—The sport of the season had been of a somewhat mixed character, but some of it was satisfactory. At Ardverikie the Marquis of Abercorn and party killed 40 stags, some of which weighed as high as 28 stone clean, and carried splendid heads. A correspondent wrote—"I have counted fourteen branches on two or three of them. 'The King of Beneubhlain' came home two days ago; his horns are 37 inches long, 36½ inches span, and 9 in. diameter. Some of your readers will be glad to hear that the 'Queen of Benalder,' the celebrated white hind known to have been there 100 years ago, is still living. The Marquis had the pleasure of once seeing this sagacious hind. The only persons now living who have repeatedly seen the white hind of Benalder are Angus Macpherson, the



standard-bearer of his clan, and Colonel Towers, a celebrated deer-stalker, now above 80 years of age, I believe, who walked up last year from Dormyask to see the alterations here, where he often passed the night, with no other covering than his plaid. About 2000 brace of game have been killed, including black game, ptarmigan, etc."

*Ibid.*—An industrial society had recently been formed in the eastern district of Sutherland, chiefly through the exertions of Mr John Hall, Sciberscross. An exhibition of blankets, flannels, plaids, linsey-woolseys, etc., was held at Golspie, and was considered very successful.

October 11.—Inverness was now reported all but clear of cholera. The disease had been in the town for six or seven months. Cases appeared in April, May, and July, but the severity of the epidemic dated from 9th August. The total number of cases from the beginning was 225, of which 112 were cured, 112 died, and only one remained under treatment. Fatal cases had occurred at Portmahomack, in Easter Ross, and in other places.

*Ibid.*—The fate of Sir John Franklin's expedition for the discovery of the North-West passage was at this time exciting great anxiety. Lady Franklin was at Stromness awaiting intelligence, and news had come of the safety of the expedition. Unfortunately the report proved to be unfounded. Sir John's expedition started in May 1845, and as many as fifteen search expeditions were sent out by England and America between 1848 and 1854. It was not till 1857 that authentic intelligence was obtained of the disaster which had overtaken the expedition, and even then all hope was not abandoned. In 1878-80 the last relics were found of Franklin's men.

*Ibid.*—The interest in the Arctic expedition induces the editor to mention that among the seamen who sailed with Captain Cook, eighty years before, on his first great voyage round the world, were two young men, natives of Inverness—William Anderson and James Nicholson. There was also a



Forbes Sutherland, not an Invernessian, but probably connected with the North. All three died during the expedition.

Ibid.—An account is given of the Rev. Mr Dewar, Avoch, who had died a few weeks before. He was a native of Breadalbane, and educated for the ministry at Mr Haldane's classes in Edinburgh, and he laboured for forty-three years in the village of Avoch. He was greatly esteemed in the village and district.

October 18 to November 1.—The foreign news is mainly taken up with the cruelties of Austria after the Hungarian insurrection, and the support given by Britain and France to the Sultan of Turkey in the demands made by Russia and Austria for the surrender of Kossuth and other fugitives. Locally there are notes and discussions on the experiments made in the crofting system by Dr Mackenzie of Eileanach on the Gairloch estate. On the 18th there is an account of the extensive improvements completed at Marypark, on the estate of Ballindalloch.

November 1.—The Roman Catholic chapel at Inverness was undergoing decoration with paintings, etc., mostly carried out by Mr Russell, a young artist from Aberdeen. Another artist, Mr Robert Macpherson, a native of the county resident at Rome, had presented a painting representing Saint Peter fleeing from Rome at night and meeting our Lord.

November 8.—The death of Mr James Stuart, factory inspector, gives the editor an opportunity for an interesting bit of biography. He was known in Scotland as Stuart of Dunearn, and was lineally descended from the Regent Murray. His father would have inherited the honours of the Earldom of Moray if the grandfather of the Earl living in 1849 had died without issue. Stuart was a Writer to the Signet, and a leading member of the Whig party, and the attacks made upon him in the press resulted in a duel with Sir Alexander Boswell of Auchinleck, in which Sir Alexander was killed. Stuart was tried and acquitted. "As a land improver and



a citizen of some mark and hospitality, Mr Stuart exhausted his means, and his affairs became embarrassed. He then travelled to America, and published an account of his travels. He was next connected with the "London Courier" newspaper, but he soon tired of the slavery of the press, and his political friends procured for him the Government appointment of Inspector of Factories. In this capacity he visited Scotland occasionally, and we remember his delight on witnessing the picturesque mill on the banks of the Ness, on which he heartily congratulated Dr Nicol. He was a shrewd observer, and had seen much of the world, while a memory of singular tenacity enabled him to treasure up a fund of anecdote and observation." Stuart died at the age of 74.

*Ibid.*—A letter had been received from the town of London, in Canada, announcing the arrival of the emigrants, about three hundred in number, who left South Uist for Canada in July and August. The writer anticipated some hardships for the new settlers during the winter, but they would have abundance of food, and at least a proportion of them had money, so that they were better provided than was at first supposed. He was sanguine as to their future prospects. The editor mentions that a former townsman, Provost Fraser, was resident in London. Letters from Glengarry emigrants to Australia also gave a satisfactory account of their experiences. They had taken exactly three months in their voyage, "the quickest that ever was made to Port-Philip."

November 15 and 22.—An important educational scheme was under consideration, namely, the union of the Mackintosh Farr Fund under one trust and management with the funds and property of the Inverness Academy.—The Town Council was in communication with the Government as to the construction of a new bridge over the River Ness, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had asked them to take the preliminary step of preparing Parliamentary notices.—A second edition of the 22nd de-



scribes the destruction by fire of the main buildings of Glenalbyn Distillery at Inverness, the property of Mr Sutherland, formerly Provost of the town. The loss was estimated at from £4000 to £5000.

November 29 and December 6.—In the first a long article describes the impoverished condition of the Outer Hebrides.—A portrait of the late Dr Nicol was exhibited in the Town Hall, and it is stated that it was intended for presentation to the Northern Infirmary. Meanwhile subscriptions had been raised for a public memorial to Dr Nicol, and meetings were being held to consider how the money was to be applied. The Inverness Martinmas market was still “a great annual fair,” and it is described at some length on the 6th inst.

December 13 to 27.—Discussion on the proposal to unite the Mackintosh Farr and Academy funds occupies considerable space. On the 27th there are long reports of rejoicings on the Lovat estates and the Sutherland estates. In the former case the tenantry celebrated the majority of the Master of Lovat (the late Lord Lovat), and in the latter the majority of the Marquis of Stafford (the late Duke of Sutherland).



## No. IX.

The year 1850 was active in Parliament. Mr Disraeli again asked for a committee of inquiry into the prevailing distress, with the view of transferring a portion of the expenses which had hitherto been defrayed out of the rates to the general taxation of the country. On a division there was a majority of only 21 against the motion, which delighted the protectionists. Great debates occurred on the foreign policy of Lord Palmerston arising out of what is known as the Don Pacifico case. In the Lords a motion of censure was carried by 169 votes to 132, but in the Commons, after a speech from Palmerston, which lasted "from the dusk of one day to the dawn of another," his policy was endorsed by 310 votes to 264. Sir Robert Peel was mortally injured by a fall from his horse, and died on 2nd July.

The Gorham case in the Church of England stirred ecclesiastical feeling, and public excitement arose from the papal aggression implied in the creation of Dr Wiseman as Archbishop of Westminster and Cardinal. Lord John Russell encouraged the agitation. During the year Mr Gladstone paid the visit to Naples which resulted in his famous letters. In the Highlands the condition of the people continued to cause anxiety, and farmers took part in the movement for a return to protection.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1850.

January 3.—The issue contains a short biographical sketch of Patrick Fraser-Tytler, author of a History of Scotland, which still retains its position as a work of learning and research. Mr Fraser-Tytler died at Malvern on 24th December 1849, at the age of 58. His eldest brother was William Fraser-Tytler of Aldourie, sheriff of Inverness-shire. Their father, Alexander Tytler, a Lord of Session under the title of Lord Woodhouslee, married in 1776 Anne, heiress of Aldourie, and so formed the northern connection. "Mr Patrick Fraser-Tytler," says the editor, "may be said to



have inhaled from his birth a love of Scottish history and antiquities." His grandfather, William Tytler of Woodhouslee, was the author of a vindication of Mary Queen of Scots, and was celebrated by Burns as the "revered defender of beautiful Stuart." The father, Lord Woodhouslee, was at one time Professor of Civil History and Greek and Roman antiquities in the University of Edinburgh, and wrote a digest of Universal History, which was translated into most of the languages of Europe.

*Ibid.*—Farmers were complaining seriously of the results of free-trade in corn, and copious extracts are given from an article in "Blackwood's Magazine," which sets forth their grievances and fears. Sir Robert Peel, however, had addressed a letter to his tenantry advising them to "dismiss altogether from their calculations the prospect of renewed protection."—The northern counties were suffering from a severe storm.

January 10.—Mr James M'Cosh, editor and proprietor of the "Inverness Advertiser," died on the previous day. He was about 35 years of age. "The immediate cause of death was disease of the heart, but the deceased laboured under a complication of physical weakness and malformation, that rendered his activity of mind a remarkable instance of energy. Mr M'Cosh had only recently established a newspaper here, but he was long connected with the press in Dundee. He was a zealous member of the Free Church, and at the time of the Disruption wrote a pamphlet on the clergy, entitled "The Chaff and the Wheat." A subsequent paragraph states that Mr Mulock (father of Miss Mulock, author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," etc.) was doing the editorial work of the "Advertiser."

*Ibid.*—The contents include an account of a destructive fire at Cradlehall farm steading and a long report of a Protectionist meeting at Tain. The Glenalbyn Distillery, recently burned down, was in course of re-erection, and was expected to be soon again in full working condition.



January 17.—There is a long report drawn up by the Edinburgh Destitution Board showing the amount expended in relief works in 1849. In March of that year no fewer than 8000 persons were receiving relief in Skye, or about a third of the whole population; in May and June the number was 5310. In the western region of Ross-shire large districts were removed from the Board's immediate care by a co-operative agreement entered into with Mr Mackenzie of Dundonell, Mr Bankes of Letterewe, the representatives of Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Gairloch, the late Mr Hay Mackenzie of Cromartie, and others. Various lines of road had there been constructed. The most important was the Garve and Ullapol Road, thirty-two miles in length, seventeen of which had been made some years before, but not in a continuous line. The Loch-Maree Road had been completed, and roads made between Poolewe and Aultbea, and at Gruinard and Little Lochbroom. "Wester Ross has thus enjoyed an expenditure, almost entirely during the last summer, of about £15,000—£10,000 from the heritors (proprietors), and the remainder from the Board; and while the population has been maintained in comfort, great facilities for intercourse have for the first time been opened to extensive and well-peopled districts." Besides roads, piers and embankments had been constructed. In the island of Raasay, Mr Rainy had co-operated with the Board in the making of roads. The population of the island numbered 1100, and previous to this time there was not a road in the island. In the county of Sutherland the Committee became bound to spend £3500 in 1849 and 1850, the Duke of Sutherland expending an equal sum; the destitute people were to be supported and a road formed from Lairg to Loch-Laxford by Loch-Shin, twenty-eight miles in length. An agreement had been made with Mr Matheson of Achany for the enlargement and improvement of crofts. The editor pleaded that the latter object should be kept in view generally for the benefit of the people.



Ibid.—Mr John Ferguson, wine merchant, one of the most respected citizens, died on the 14th inst., in his sixty-sixth year. It is stated that the business, of which he was latterly sole proprietor, had at one time supplied William Pitt and Lord Melville with their favourite port; and under Mr Ferguson furnished the mess tables of some regiments in India. "In all public matters and civic duties the lamented deceased took a warm interest. He had been a Councillor, a Bailie, and Provost of the burgh, and an elder in the Church. He was bound up with Inverness in all its social interests, and was known to all. His shrewd sagacious advice and lively comment were ready for every occasion, and many instances of genuine unostentatious charity and kindness might be recorded to his honour." Mr Ferguson was Provost from 1836 to 1839. He originated a subscription for the first embankment of the river, promoted the pavement of the streets, and the formation of drains and sewers, and was one of the originators of the Gas and Water Company. He also for a long time efficiently managed the voluntary funds for the support of the poor. "Indeed in every measure affecting the interests of the town, Mr Ferguson took an effective, a cordial, and disinterested part." —Another death recorded is that of James Bayne, M.D., Nairn, who was much respected in the town. He was a son of the late Dr Ronald Bayne, Kiltarlity, and was aged 62.

Ibid.—In the same number there is an interesting review of Hugh Miller's "Footprints of the Creator." It is stated that the work had already become the text-book of a learned lecturer in an English University.

January 24 and 31.—On the first date a tribute is paid to the Rev. Hector Bethune, minister of Dingwall, who had recently passed away, at the age of 67. Mr Bethune's father was minister of Alness, where his son succeeded him until he was transferred to Dingwall. Mr Bethune's preaching was "of a quiet rather than of an energetic character," but he was an ac-



complished man, and commanded the respect of his parishioners. The prospects of the Highlands are discussed in the same number, and a protection meeting at Dingwall is reported. A bill for dealing with the Mackintosh Farr Fund continued to create local dissension. The North was in the grip of a snow-storm. On the 31st an account is given of the death of an English gentleman who perished in the snow in the parish of Durness in Sutherland. He had arrived as a pedestrian about three years before, and resided in the inn at Durness, but nothing was known of him, not even his name, until his papers were examined after his death. The same issue contains the death of Lord Jeffrey.

February 7 and 14.—A good deal of interest was excited by the discovery of what was supposed to be a new alkali from kelp, announced by Mr Layton of Rotherham. His communication was the subject of correspondence. A movement was in progress for the establishment of a comprehensive system of national education, but many years had to pass before it came to fruition. A bill for the erection of a new bridge at Inverness was under discussion.

February 14.—Some antiquarian relics found near Cromarty had been left at the "Courier" Office, and Mr Duncan, tenant of Muirhead, sent a communication on the subject. He said that as long ago as 1833 a labouring man digging out stones from a cairn found "a box-like place" neatly built, with stone flags at the bottom and top, but nothing within except about an inch of fine black mould. A few yards further the labourer came upon a square of about 12 or 15 feet, formed of large boulder stones of every variety of size, and inside a number of low walls or partitions, from 12 to 18 inches in height, the breadth between them being about 18 inches, and the length varying from 5 to 6 feet. "There was a number of these chambers side by side and others across, so that there was no vacant space left within the square. These buildings were fitted up in a very inferior style



of workmanship from that first described. There were no flags in the bottom or on the top; the thin walls were as simple as a piece of drystone dyke; and the whole were filled to the level of the top of these partitions with small stones and earth, and above that larger stones and earth to the top of the cairn." In one apartment was a stone and a charcoal-like article, but nothing else—not even the vestige of a bone. On the east side of the square, however, a great many bones were found in a state of decomposition, also a human skull. "A random collection of stones and earth" had been heaped over them. In another place unknown something resembling a child's hand had been found. A small coin was picked up in the spring of 1849 by a man digging a drain. An antiquarian friend told the editor that the stone sent by Mr Duncan was a stone battle axe or hammer, but the specimen was the roundest or bluntest he had ever seen, probably owing to its being of a soft steatite or serpentinite. The charcoal-looking substance was a piece of jet, notched on the sides as a tally of rent paid. The supposed child's hand was a piece of calcareous stalactite, not a relic of organic remains. The coin was a silver penny, probably of Alexander III.

February 21.—Among the donations recently made to the Scottish Society of Antiquaries was "a singular bronze relic found in the Isle of Skye." In appearance it resembled a bent spear, and was supposed to be an implement for hollowing out boats and large wooden vessels. The relic was discovered during the previous summer, along with several bronze swords and spear-heads, a cup-headed bronze pin, and the remains of a wooden box.

February 28.—"Mr Disraeli has been suddenly elevated to the position of a great man. He was sneered at by all parties. The Marquis of Granby looked askance at his efforts to become leader of the Protectionists, Lord Stanhope denounced his alliance, the Peelites kept him aloof, Mr Cobden defied him, and the Whigs disowned him.



At one bound, however, he has placed himself in a conspicuous position as a Parliamentary tactician." This triumph was brought about by Mr Disraeli's motion for transferring part of the poor rates and local burdens to the consolidated fund, which produced a two nights' debate, and was defeated only by a majority of 21. The editor regarded the motion as delusive, but admitted that it was a significant hint to Ministers.

March 7.—Mr James Laidlaw, known for more than thirty years as one of the most extensive sheep-farmers in the Highlands, died on the 4th inst., at Contin, in his 62nd year. "The deceased was first taught his letters when a child by James Hogg, the Ettrick shepherd, and his brother, Mr William Laidlaw, was long the 'dear friend,' as Mr Lockhart remarks, of the great Minstrel at Abbotsford. Hogg was ten years in the service of Mr Laidlaw, Blackhouse, Selkirkshire, father of the deceased, and to this connection he owed his introduction to Scott and some of the best friendships of his life. The deceased and his eldest brother, Mr George Laidlaw, now the only survivor [1850], early settled in the Highlands, and held extensive farms from the Chisholm in Strathglass, and Sir George Mackenzie of Coul, Ross-shire. He was open and liberal, a great reader and original thinker, with the utmost simplicity of character and kindliness of disposition." Being a very tall man the Highlanders called him "the Sassenach Mhor," and Sir Walter Scott once invited his neighbour, Lord Somerville, to meet Mr Laidlaw under that name. His lordship enjoyed the joke (he had expected to meet a Highland chief), and was delighted with Mr Laidlaw's sagacity and information. "North and South, indeed, by high and low, Mr Laidlaw was esteemed and respected, and he goes to his grave, though far from the cherished scenes of his youth, deeply and widely lamented."

March 14.—The Rev. Alex. Rose, D.D., one of the ministers of the Inverness High Church (retired for some years), died on the



12th inst. in his 78th year. For many years he was an influential clergyman in Inverness. Dr Rose was born at Broomhill, Cawdor, in 1772, and educated at the parish school of Nairn, under Mr Strath, and at King's College, Aberdeen. After leaving the University, he lived for some time in Lochaber, where he acquired a knowledge of Gaelic. Dr Rose was appointed assistant in Inverness in 1795, and shortly afterwards ordained to the third charge, which he held for about three years, when he was promoted to the second. "He had it more than once in his power to remove to the first charge, but from motives of delicacy and regard for his colleague, who could not obtain the necessary patronage for his promotion from the third to the second charge, he declined to remove." Dr Rose was twice put in nomination as Moderator of the General Assembly, but the state of his health prevented him from accepting the distinction. Curiously enough his successor, Dr Macdonald, had also the same choice, and declined.

*Ibid.*—In the education controversy then going on, an appeal was made to a memorandum by Dr Chalmers advising that "in any public measure for helping on the education of the people, Government should, in the present divided state of the Christian world, abstain from introducing religion at all in their part of the scheme." Dr Candlish contended that this declaration referred only to the Government scheme as then existing and supported by Government grants; while Dr Guthrie, Hugh Miller, Dr Begg, and others maintained that it applied to the general question of education. "On the whole of this question of education and on the condition and treatment of the Free Church teachers, Dr Candlish has been effectually demolished by the editor of the 'Witness.'" It was in the beginning of 1847, as we learn from Miller's life, that he first came to a rupture with Dr Candlish on important questions.

March 21 and 28.—A case affecting the Nairn Academy, which had been going on for



three years, was now decided in the Court of Session. The question was whether Mr John Marshall had been duly elected teacher on 2nd April 1847. The Court decided that he had, and that, in consequence of his resignation on 5th May 1847, the office had been since vacant, although another teacher had been acting in the interval.—There was controversy between the burgh of Inverness and the county regarding financial clauses in the Bridges Bill now before Parliament.—The Rev. Alexander Coull, minister of Alves, died on the 11th inst. He had been parish schoolmaster of Edinkillie before he was settled in Alves in 1843.—The issue of the 28th records a snowstorm of considerable severity in the Highlands.—In the general news of the day a good deal of attention is given to the Gorham case.

April 4.—A Parisian weekly journal called "L' Illustration" was publishing a series of articles descriptive of Scotland. Its correspondent had been in Inverness and through the Canal, and gave a lively and generally correct description of what he saw. One incident may be mentioned. The visitor was strolling one day along the banks of Loch-Oich, when he suddenly heard a sound on the breeze. "I listened; it was the distant sound of the bag-pipe; it was a tune of my own Brittany, an ancient melody with which my mother loved to lull me to sleep. I stopped, much affected as I listened; the landscape before me seemed to grow confused and to disappear: tears stood in my eye. . . . I returned on my journey, and quickening my step soon arrived at a little inn, before which some peasants were dancing to the sounds of the bagpipes. It was a Highland marriage. They invited me with a polite air to join in the festivities, and I risked myself to the mazes of a reel—a Scottish dance full of vigour and character, and much resembling the native dances of Brittany. I pledged the young people in whisky, and there you might see the Breton of Armorica fraternising with the Britons of Caledonia."



Ibid.—Cairngorm stones were at this time found in considerable numbers in the mountain from which they take their name. Very fine specimens had been purchased by Inverness jewellers. They had been dug by a shepherd from a pocket in a rock.

Ibid.—The same issue records the death of Lieutenant-General Sir John Macdonald, Adjutant-General, and Colonel of the 42nd Highlanders from 1844 until his death. He had served in Egypt, in the Walcheren expedition, and in the Peninsula, and had received many distinctions for his services.

April 11 and 18.—The burgh and county had come to terms about the Bridges Bill, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer suddenly announced opposition. At the same time he stated that he was disposed to give a grant of £4000, and to refer the matter to the Commissioners for Highland Roads and Bridges, throwing the burden of any expense beyond the money gift on the annual grant of £5000 made to the Northern Counties. When he had received a report from the Commissioners he would introduce a bill to carry out his own views. Thus the local bill dropped. The editor says that the cost of preparing it had come to several hundred pounds, and that expenses to the amount of between £2000 and £3000 had been occasioned altogether by the flood—in repairing the banks, building the foot-bridge, and other matters.

Ibid.—The death of Mr Alexander Mackenzie, Kessock, long a burghess and magistrate of the burgh, is recorded on the 11th inst.—A story from Badenoch tells how a young captive eagle, which had escaped from its cage, returned to the immediate neighbourhood, and allowed itself to be recaptured.—A movement was begun “to restore efficiency to the Inverness Mechanics’ Institution, or to create from its remains a new and more life-like association.”—The issue of the 18th contains a report of the rejoicings at Aldourie, when Captain Fraser-Tytler returned from active and distinguished service in India.—The issue also records the death of Mr James Forsyth,



merchant, a respected citizen of Inverness, who had filled the office of magistrate, and was for many years an elder in the High Church.

April 25.—Mr John Macdonell, Keppoch, grandson of the Keppoch who was killed at Culloden, by his son Angus, had recently passed away. John was born in 1766, and was sent early to Rome to study for the Catholic Church, but never took orders. In 1784 he returned to his native country, but before leaving Italy he and a fellow-student were presented to Prince Charles by the Abbé Macpherson, then rector of the Scotch College at Rome. "He was the last Scottish gentleman (wrote a correspondent) who saw Prince Charles and kissed his hand; he always retained a lively recollection of him, and brought home a piece of the ribbon whereon he wore his orders, which he kept carefully to the day of his death. In his after life he followed sheep farming, in company with his brothers, and never married. He was learned, and was in the habit of corresponding with several of the most learned of the age he lived in. Sir Thomas Dick Lauder made honourable mention of the information he received from him when taking the levels of the celebrated parallel roads of Glenroy; and Dr Buckland found in him a useful informant and a friend."

May 2.—The Rev. John C. Mackenzie, Professor of Classical Literature and Mental Philosophy in the Free Church College in Halifax, Canada, died in March. He was a native of Inverness, and had been classical master in Tain Academy.—In this and preceding issues are reports of the celebration of the majority of the Marchioness of Stafford (the late Duchess of Sutherland).

Ibid.—At the Inverness County meeting the project of erecting a lunatic asylum for the northern counties was revived. The attempt to institute an asylum by public subscription had failed, and it was now resolved to ask the counties on the mainland from Nairnshire northwards to concur in the introduction of a bill in Parlia-



ment. The number of pauper lunatics supported at the time in the district was 534.—The death of the poet Wordsworth is recorded, and is the subject of an interesting article.

May 9 to 30.—The condition of agriculture is a frequent topic, the movement in favour of protection having shown renewed strength. A considerable revival of smuggling in the Highlands was noted. Roualeyn Gordon Cumming, home from South Africa, had opened an exhibition at Hyde Park Corner, London. The "Athenæum" stated that Roualeyn had killed 18 lions, 28 specimens of the black rhinoceros, 76 hippopotami, and 105 elephants; that his lions' skins were particularly fine; and that he had at least one thousand pounds' worth of ivory in the room, and a pair of elephant's tusks measuring nine feet. "Mr Cumming would realise Charles the Fifth's idea of a hero. He knows not fear."

June 6.—Evictions were threatened on the Strathaird estate in the island of Skye, involving families which numbered 620 souls. The proprietor offered assistance to send the people to Canada, but they declined to remove. Most of them had been dependent on the Destitution Fund, which was to cease in a few months.

Ibid.—"Workmen have been engaged for the last few days, under the direction of Mr Mitchell, engineer, boring the bed of the River Ness, to aid in the enquiries relative to the foundation and site of the proposed bridge. Near the spot where the old bridge stood, they went to the depth of about forty feet, the first ten of which were sand and gravel; the remainder a strong, firm clay."

June 13.—The death is recorded of Lieut.-Colonel Patrick Campbell, of the 52nd Light Infantry, which took place at Brighton. He was a son of Mr Robert Campbell, long principal sheriff-clerk of Inverness-shire, and had seen service under Moore and Wellington.—The subscribers to the memorial to Dr Nicol resolved to have a painting for the Northern Infirmary, a bust for the Town Hall; and if any



funds were over to place them in the hands of the town as a Nicol mortification. The amount subscribed was about £250.—An article on Rome and the Papal States appears from the pen of Mr James B. Fraser of Reelig.

*Ibid.*—The heads and horns of a fossil deer had lately been added to a collection of deer heads in Conan House. The span of the horns was eleven feet, and the entire head presented a mass of formidable antlers, 22 in number. It is not stated where the head was found.

*Ibid.*—A vessel named the "Countess of Cawdor" had been launched at Nairn. She was a first-class brig, about 255 tons burden, built by Mr Anderson, Macduff, for Mr Dallas, merchant at Nairn.

*Ibid.*—The following paragraph from the London letter will interest golfers:—"The annual meeting of the Golf Club came off on Saturday last at Blackheath, when great numbers of your northern distingués were present. The match was a very spirited one, although in the early part of the day rain fell, and made the ground somewhat slippery. For the third time an English clergyman, the Rev. Mr Marsh, bore away the medal from the distinguished golf-players of Caledonia. Sir William Monteith was second in the honours of the day."

June 20 to July 4.—These issues record the debates in the Lords and Commons, when Lord Palmerston's foreign policy was censured in the one and approved in the other. The wreck of the Liverpool passenger steamer *Orion*, which struck on a sunken rock near Portpatrick, and went down with the loss of 157 lives, fills a large space. Locally, a paragraph on June 20 records the re-discovery of the original well at Strathpeffer, which had been lost for thirty years. It appears that in building the pump-room the masons had flagged over this well, leaving another but rather weaker one open. The two wells were now brought into use. On July 4 there is a long review of Roualeyn Gordon Cumming's book on his adventures in South Africa. A visit of the Right Hon. T. B.



Macaulay to the town is also recorded. He was accompanied by Lady Trevelyan and her daughter, and visited the battle-field of Culloden.

July 11.—The death of Sir Robert Peel was recorded in a line "by special express" in the previous issue, and this week there is an account of his life and services. Referring to his closing years the editor says:—"The grief of the whole nation at his death attests the deep and universal feeling of confidence with which he was regarded. He stood above all parties and official position, in a situation that probably no public man ever before occupied. His elevation was a moral and intellectual one, befitting the close of a protracted and eventful public life."

Ibid.—A report is published by Mr James M. Rendel, C.E., on the proposed new Inverness bridge and its site. Three sites had been suggested, namely, the site of the old bridge, one at Fraser Street, 200 yards lower down the river, and one opposite Wells Street, 600 yards below the former bridge. Mr Rendel recommended the old site, and was in favour of the erection of an iron girder bridge, which he estimated to cost £16,000, exclusive of the purchase price of the Castle Tolmie property.

Ibid.—A great Highland fete in London is described in past and present issues. The Queen and Prince Albert were present, and there was a large gathering of Highland chiefs and others, attired in Highland costume. The London correspondent thought the fete might be called the field of "the Cloth of Tartan." Roualeyn Gordon Cumming was a notable figure present. The first prize for pibrochs went to Alexander Campbell, piper to Lord Lovat.

July 18.—The result of the Wool Market was regarded as highly satisfactory. Some reduction in the price of sheep from the previous year's prices had been expected, but the drop was comparatively small; while wool had risen by about one shilling per stone.



*Ibid.*—A man named Robert Pate was tried for striking the Queen with a cane as she was driving out from Cambridge House, Piccadilly. The blow bruised and cut her Majesty's forehead. Pate was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

July 25 and August 1.—The bill which proposed to amalgamate the funds of the Mackintosh Farr Trust with the funds of the Inverness Royal Academy was considered at great length before a Committee of the House of Lords, numerous witnesses being examined. The Committee decided that no sum of money should be contributed out of the Mackintosh Farr Fund for the purposes of the Academy, but approved of clauses relating to management, audit, supervision, and the admission of bursars. The promoters, however, withdrew the bill.

August 1.—Major-General Sir Alexander Cameron of Inverailort, K.C.B., died on the 20th ult.; at the age of 71. He began his military career under the Duke of York in Holland with the 92nd Highlanders; and afterwards served in Egypt, in the Peninsula, and at Waterloo, where he was severely wounded. Sir Alexander was interred in the churchyard of Kilmallie, within a few feet of his gallant clansman, Colonel Cameron of Fassfern.

August 15.—On the 12th inst. Viscount Reidhaven, son and heir of the Earl of Seafield, was married in London to the Hon. Caroline Stuart, youngest daughter of Lord Blantyre. The marriage was celebrated with rejoicings in Glen-Urquhart and Strathspey. On the 7th inst. Mr John Grant, yr. of Glenmoriston, was married to Emily, daughter of Mr James Morrison, formerly M.P. for the Inverness Burghs. This marriage also called forth rejoicings on the estate.

*Ibid.*—A reporter who went to Strathconan gives an account of clearances that had taken place on the estate of Strathconan, belonging to Mr Balfour. Some of the people had club farms, and in one case the tenants had asked the proprietor to take the holding off their hands. This led



to other changes which had called forth public criticism. A proportion of the evicted were squatters. The arrangements made by the proprietor, however, were represented as liberal. The net result was a reduction of the population from 508 persons to 383. Twenty-seven families, making in all 123 persons, were removed. The reporter says that "forced removals, under any circumstances, and however carried out, must bear an aspect of oppression," but he thought there would be an increase of comfort among the population that remained.

August 22.—A letter from Melbourne gives an indifferent account of the condition of things in Australia at this time. A great emigration was going on to California, where the gold-fever was acute.

August 29.—An account had turned up of the expenses incurred at a funeral, carried out by Alexander Rose, tacksman at the Ness of Invergordon in 1751. The deceased was the widow of the tacksman of Meikle Tarrell, and the total cost came to £20 6s. Cromarty supplied some of the items, but an express was sent to Inverness for bread. "The most notable feature, however, is the charge for claret and white wine. Wine is still used at respectable funerals, but the taste for claret seems a forgotten pleasure with most of the people in the country. In the long period that has come and gone since the clerk put pen to the paper before us, wine has doubled and trebled in price. Tea, however, seems cheaper now by one-half." Three bottles of claret and five of white wine came to 13s 4d; and this was not reckoned a sufficient supply, for there is another entry, "To 1½ doz. claret and 7 bottles white wine, £2 1s 8d." Half a pound of fine Congo tea cost 4s 6d.

Ibid.—The death of Louis Philippe, driven from the throne of France by the Revolution of 1848, occurred on the 25th inst. He was in the 77th year of his age.

September 5.—Queen Victoria, with Prince Albert and their family, travelled from the Isle of Wight to Scotland, making some-



thing of a "royal progress," especially in the north of England and on this side of the Border. The Queen stayed at Holyrood, and Prince Albert laid the foundation stone of the National Gallery. Afterwards the royal party went to Balmoral. Among the sporting visitors in the neighbourhood of Inverness was Lord Gough, the conqueror of the Sikhs, who had taken Corrimony in Glen-Urquhart.

Ibid.—The English Free congregation (now the United Free High) had acquired the site at the foot of Fraser Street for their new church, and plans for the building were in preparation.—A young man named Grant, from Glasgow, who had climbed Ben-Nevis with some friends on the 26th ult., parted from them on his way down, and slipping on a steep slope was killed.—A wounded stag, attempting to leap across the gorge at Foyers, above the lower fall, fell into the stream and was carried over by the torrent into the cauldron below. A gamekeeper was slung down the precipice, and secured the body of the victim.—The first show of stock, under the auspices of the Inverness Farmers' Society, was held on the Academy Green on 29th August, and was considered a great success.

September 12.—A proposal was under consideration to transfer the poor crofters and cottars in the district of Sollas in North Uist to a district in the south of the island called Langlash and Loch-Efort side. Lord Macdonald gave his consent, and Destitution Committees were willing to make a grant of £1700. It was proposed to give the families, between 60 and 70 in number, holdings of twenty acres each. The people, however, were doubtful about the scheme, and expressed a preference to go to Canada.

Ibid.—No fewer than two hundred persons had recently been roaming the Cairngorms, searching for precious stones. Their imaginations had been excited by paragraphs announcing the discovery of such stones by a resident shepherd. No success, however, attended the crowd of searchers.



September 19.—A representative of the paper visited Gairloch, the estate of Sir Kenneth Mackenzie, to investigate the experiments made in a garden system of cultivation introduced among the crofters by Dr Mackenzie of Eileanach. The reporter thought that Dr Mackenzie deserved credit for his effort to introduce the system, but expressed the opinion that it "had proved little less than an entire failure." Its best result was to raise the crofters' ideas of comfort, and to induce them to erect better houses than the old black bothies. The experiment, however, was not profitable either to the estate or the small tenants.

Ibid.—The Prime Minister, Lord John Russell, paid a visit to the Dowager Duchess of Bedford at the Doune of Rothiemurchus. He was presented with an address at Aviemore, and followed to the Doune by a procession of Highlanders. At night a bonfire was lighted on the Ord Bane.

September 26.—The Northern Meeting was a well-attended and brilliant gathering. It is noted that for some years no sports or ball had taken place on Wednesday, the programme being confined to Thursday and Friday. Lord and Lady Gough were present at the sports and balls.

Ibid.—"Her Majesty has made a graceful recognition of genius by knighting the distinguished artist, Edwin Landseer, who is at present at Balmoral, sketching the red deer of the Highlands."

Ibid.—John Jardine, advocate, Sheriff of Ross and Cromarty, died on the 21st inst. at the age of 74. He had been Sheriff of Ross-shire for seventeen years. His successor was George Deas, then senior advocate-depute.

October 10 and 17.—The election of a Co-adjutor Bishop for the diocese of Moray and Ross excited much interest. The election took place at Elgin on the 2nd inst., the clergymen proposed for the office being the Rev. James Mackay, incumbent of St John's Episcopal Church, Inverness, and Rev. Robert Eden, rector of Leigh in Essex. Four voted for each candidate.



One of Mr Eden's supporters was Dean Maclaurin, Elgin, who a few days afterwards announced his secession to the Church of Rome. This added to the interest taken in the question.

*Ibid.*—A disease, considered to be pleuro pneumonia, had broken out on several farms in the neighbourhood of Inverness, and had proved most fatal, especially among dairy stock.

October 24 and 31.—The condition of the West Highland people was again a matter of public concern. The Strathaird crofters in Skye had sent an appeal for assistance, alleging that they could not go to seek employment at a distance, as the proprietor and authorities were threatening to turn them out by military force. This statement was denied. On the other hand it was pointed out that the crofters had declined to emigrate to Canada, although their landlord had offered an advance of £1200, to be divided among them according to their necessities. The landlord was not deriving a shilling from the estate, as no rent was or could be paid by the people. It is announced that at last an agreement was likely to be completed between Lord Macdonald and the Perth Destitution Committee with regard to the people of Sollas. They were to receive allotments at Langlash and Loch-Efort-side, in North Uist, on conditions arranged between the proprietor and the Committee. Mr Charles Shaw, sheriff-substitute of the Long Island, was to be sole arbiter if any question arose. The general outlook in the west, however, is represented as gloomy. "The Destitution Funds are now exhausted; the potato crop has again failed in the West Highlands to a very considerable extent; and those whose information best entitles them to judge, concur in the opinion that before the spring of 1851 general and severe distress will be experienced on the extensive western coasts and islands of Inverness and Ross."

*Ibid.*—Lord Ashley (afterwards Earl of Shaftesbury), who had been a guest at Dunrobin, was presented on his return



journey with the freedom of the burgh of Tain.

October 31.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer had communicated to the agents of the burgh his final determination respecting the new bridge over the Ness. He proposed to grant half the cost of the bridge; the remainder and the approaches to be a charge on the County or the Highland Roads and Bridges Fund; but he was prepared to advance the money. This might be repaid either by the county or by deduction from the road fund. A toll might be levied on the bridge as the parties chose. The engineer now estimated for a girder bridge and approaches £16,000; for a suspension bridge from £13,000 to £14,000.

Ibid.—The Pontifical decree, establishing a Roman Catholic hierarchy in England, was published, and created great excitement.

November 7 to 28.—During the month there was constant discussion on what was called the Papal aggression, indignation being fanned by a letter written by Lord John Russell to the Bishop of Durham. In the Highlands there was the greatest apprehension on the subject of distress in the Hebrides. Mr Shaw, sheriff-substitute in the Long Island, had addressed a letter to the sheriff of Inverness-shire on the 30th of September, and it had been submitted to the Lord-Advocate and the Home Secretary, Sir George Grey. The latter laid the communication before the Board of Supervision, which wrote that four years of distress had not been sufficient to bring about any change of conditions offering hope of permanent improvement, and the immediate relief of impending destitution must be provided for by the local authorities from local resources. The letter says—"Where the proprietors have sought to diminish the pressure of the population upon the means of subsistence by issuing notices of removal, accompanied by offers of liberal assistance to emigrate, they have generally been met by a sullen refusal or turbulent resistance, and by clamorous complaints of injustice." The



Board thought if responsibility was thrown, at least in the first instance, on the Parochial Boards, the effect would be useful. The Home Secretary concurred with the Board of Supervision, and with regard to emigration, suggested that application should be made to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.

*Ibid.*—The editor protested against the whole burden of Highland distress being thrown on the districts. He points out that the Highland proprietors were as helpless as the poor people themselves. All the proprietors might not have done their duty, but many had, and the evil was beyond their means of cure. In Skye the resources of Lord Macdonald and Macleod of Macleod were exhausted. "No Highland landlord exerted himself more entirely and devotedly than Macleod in the interests of his people and estates. He made roads, established communication with the Lowlands, borrowed drainage money, improved land, opened shops, and largely involved his estate with the view of placing his people in a position unassailable by future failures of the potato. But these well-meant efforts failed. The large sums expended produced no reward. The kind-hearted chief can now look on only from a distance, and see, without the power to mitigate, the distress which threatens that clan whose welfare lies nearest his heart."

*Ibid.*—The plans for the new bridge over the Ness had been received. The estimate for the proposed girder bridge had now been raised to £20,000, and for a suspension bridge to £18,000.—Preparations were in progress for the great exhibition of 1851. Mr D. Macdougall of the Clan Tartan Warehouse, had failed to induce an Inverness committee to sanction a stall at the exhibition, and he had obtained a place through the Elgin Committee.—The editor had begun a series of articles on local antiquities.—A fire had destroyed Mr James Anderson's sawmills in Shore Street.

*Ibid.*—On the 21st inst. the decision of the College of Bishops on the question of the



election of a Coadjutor Bishop of Moray and Ross is announced. The conclusion was that as neither the Rev. Robert Eden nor the Rev. James Mackay appeared to be supported by a clear legal majority, the Bishops refused to accept and confirm either.

December 5 to 26.—The same public subjects occupy attention during the month. There is frequent reference to the condition of the West Highlands, and a letter appears from Macleod of Macleod urging that emigration appeared to be the only means by which the population could be permanently rescued from the danger of a constantly recurring destitution. The death of Sir John Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch calls forth a cordial tribute, and also that of Mr J. W. Lillingston of Lochalsh. The latter was the eldest son of Abraham Spooner of Elmden Hall, Warwickshire, who took the name of Lillingston on his marriage with Miss Lillingston of Ferrity Grange, Yorkshire. Mr Lillingston the second married a niece of Sir Hugh Innes, Bart. of Lochalsh in 1832. The property at the time was under trust, and its sole management did not come into Mr Lillingston's hands until 1844. He then relieved the tenantry of arrears, and in the year of the potato famine expended £2600 in meal, for which he only received a return of £620. He assisted those who petitioned for aid to emigrate, expending £1000 on the last emigration from Lochalsh.

Ibid.—On the 12th inst., under the head of Local Antiquities, there are extracts from papers at Culloden House, giving items of accounts sent in for losses sustained by tenants at the close of the rising of 1745-6. A horse, "taken by the Frasers," is valued at £1 13s 4d, and a house burned by a party of Highlanders at 6s 8d. The farm of Leanach, on the Moor of Culloden, was then cultivated, and within its enclosures the Duke of Cumberland ordered the English soldiers slain in the battle to be interred. The tenant was then one James Macdonald, who sends in an account claiming £5 8s 4d for losses sustained from the



royal troops. The principal item is a mare, £1 13s 4d; two lambs, 1s each; and a barrow, 6d. There are other interesting items.

**Ibid.**—A movement for the cultivation of flax was at this time suggested in Glen-Urquhart.



## No. X.

The year 1851 is known in British annals as the year of the Great Exhibition, which was supposed to inaugurate a new and peaceful era. Prince Albert was its most active promoter, and the glass and iron palace, designed by Mr Paxton and erected in the southern part of Hyde Park, was regarded as one of the wonders of the world. It was opened by the Queen on the 1st of May. "A grander spectacle," says Sir William Molesworth, "or more striking pageant than that which took place within was perhaps never exhibited, when, amidst all the pomp and splendour that the Court of England could display, amidst the sound of many trumpets, the solemn and jubilant strains of loud-pealing organs, amidst a crowd of eminent Englishmen and illustrious foreigners, the Queen, then in the prime of her youth and beauty, opened this unrivalled collection of the triumphs of human genius, in the most striking building that any age has produced, and that human skill and perseverance have ever erected." This reads nowadays as extravagant, but it reflects the feelings that existed not only at the moment but for many years afterwards, until, indeed, international exhibitions became no unusual events.

The political history of the year was troubled. Lord John Russell passed his Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, to repress what was considered Papal aggression, but its provisions have proved abortive. The nation, indeed, soon became ashamed of its spasm of apprehension. Mr Locke King began a movement for assimilating the county franchise with that of burghs, and on the motion to introduce a bill defeated the Government by a majority of 100 to 52. This shook Lord John Russell's Ministry, and, as the Budget was unsatisfactory, he sent in his resignation. Lord Stanley (soon to be Earl of Derby) failed, however, to form an administration, and the Whigs returned to office. Lord John promised to bring forward a measure of reform in the following session. In spite of the opposition of Government a motion in favour of the ballot was carried by a majority of 37. Alderman Salomons, a Jew, was elected member for Greenwich,



and endeavoured to take his seat, but the attempt was declared to be illegal.

In December came the coup d'etat in France, which led to the second Empire. The same event brought about the dismissal of Lord Palmerston from the Foreign Office, on the ground that he had expressed approval of Prince Louis Napoleon's action without consulting the Prime Minister or the Sovereign.

The West Highlands and Islands continued to be in a poverty-stricken state, which produced much controversy and agitation.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1851.

January 2.—The Finance Committee of the county of Inverness had under consideration the offer of the Chancellor of the Exchequer respecting the new Ness Bridge, and approved of his proposals.—A vigorous effort was going on to make the Inverness Mechanics' Institute popular and useful. A public soiree was held in the Northern Meeting Rooms, and at the ordinary meeting the President, Mr George Anderson, lectured on Geology.—A public meeting had been held in Skye, at which very gloomy accounts were given of the condition and prospects of the people. The meeting proposed to ask the assistance of the Government for a grant of money on favourable terms for carrying out land improvement, facilitating emigration, and other purposes. They also suggested the formation of a railway to Oban.

January 9 and 16.—The state of the West Highlands and Islands again occupies considerable space. The Highland Destitution Board had brought their relief operations to a close, and the Glasgow section had submitted a report. During the past year this section had spent £21,402, and had a balance in hand of £2000. They had relieved distress, and had assisted in making roads and piers, but acknowledged that they had not succeeded in effecting any improvement in the condition of the people. In fact, it is stated that many



of them were in a worse position than when the destitution, dating from 1846, began. The attempts of the Board to improve the fishing in Mull, Barra, and Loch-Tarbert, in Harris, had resulted in heavy financial failure. A letter appears from Dr Alexander Macleod, of Portree, formerly factor for Barra and South Uist, giving his views on the causes of distress in these districts. He attributes their destitution to the condensing of the population into small areas, and in Barra to the increase of rents imposed by Colonel MacNiel, when he found himself in difficulties brought about by a mistaken attempt to establish works for refining kelp. He believed Colonel Gordon had bought the estate without knowing the fictitious character of the rental, and gives him credit for reducing rents and spending large sums for the benefit of the people. A subsequent paragraph gives figures from an abstract of receipts and expenditure on Colonel Gordon's Long Island estates, from August 1846 to August 1850. In these years the excess of expenditure over income amounted to no less than £5609. At a meeting held in Inverness in connection with the Royal Patriotic Society, its secretary, Mr Bond, stated that there were 50,000 persons in the West Highlands and Islands then very nearly destitute, if not entirely so. Other estimates limited the number of the destitute to 20,000.

January 23.—The Right Rev. Dr Low having now resigned the Bishopric of Moray and Ross, the clergy of the diocese met at Elgin to elect a successor. The Rev. James Mackay, Inverness, protested that he had previously been elected coadjutor bishop by a majority of legal votes, and the Rev. Dean Moffat concurred. The meeting, however, proceeded to an election, and the Rev. Robert Eden, M.A., Rector of Leigh, in Essex, was chosen by five votes, as against two given for Mr Mackay.

Ibid.—A meeting of the county of Inverness confirmed the resolution of the Finance Committee approving of the offer of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the erec-



tion of a new bridge over the Ness. The Chancellor's offer was to advance the whole sum necessary for construction, half by way of grant, and half by way of loan. The loan was to be paid out of the sum annually allotted to the four counties of Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness for the repair of Highland roads and bridges, spread over twenty-two years, at the rate of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The contribution of each county was to be in proportion to the sum allotted to it. From the two plans proposed, the meeting selected the Suspension Bridge.

January 30.—At a meeting in Fort-William figures were submitted showing that 3784 persons were destitute in the district, comprising the parishes of Kilmallie, Kilmonivaig, Ardnamurchan, and Glenelg.

February 13.—It is announced that the line of Highland steamers had now passed from the hands of Messrs G. and J. Burns into those of Messrs David Hutcheson and Co. Mr Hutcheson had long held the management of this and other lines of steamers, of which Messrs Burns were the proprietors.

Ibid.—A poverty-stricken party from Barra, men, women, and children numbering sixty-one souls, arrived by steamer one Saturday night in Inverness, and took up their position opposite the Inverness Town House, "to see what the authorities were to do with them." Their condition excited great compassion. The authorities admitted forty-five into the Poor-house, and found lodgings for the rest in the Merkinch. A few days afterwards they moved away eastwards, hoping to find employment with the fishermen on the Buchan coast. Their story was that in former days they enjoyed a fair amount of comfort, but about ten years ago their crofts had been taken from them and thrown into large farms, and they themselves crowded on patches of ground, hardly at all reclaimable, for which they paid increased rates of rent. Failure of the kelp trade and the potato crop, and a falling off in the fishing, had reduced them to complete destitution.—A letter from



Islay in the same issue describes the increasing pauperism and destitution in that island.

[*ibid.*—Lord John Russell introduced his bill dealing with the Papal aggression implied in the assumption of ecclesiastical titles. The measure proposed to prohibit any Roman Catholic prelates from assuming titles taken from any territory or place in the United Kingdom, declared that gifts to such persons should be null and void, and that property bequeathed for such purposes should pass to the Crown. A luke-warm reception was given to the bill. "No enthusiasm," says the editor, "will be excited in its favour. It is neither good enough nor bad enough in its present shape."

February 20 and 27.—The political situation became complicated. The introduction of the Papal Aggression Bill was carried by 395 votes to 63. During the same week Mr Disraeli proposed a motion calling on the Government to bring forward measures for relieving agricultural distress, and this motion was only defeated by a majority of 14. The following week Mr Locke King, in opposition to the Government, carried by 100 votes to 52 a motion to equalise the elective franchise in counties and burghs. At the same time the Budget was unpopular. In consequence, Lord John Russell tendered the resignation of the Cabinet, and Lord Stanley was sent for by the Queen. He failed, however, to form an administration.

February 27.—The Longman Road was reported to have been satisfactorily completed.

March 6.—The issue records the recall of the Russell administration. In the local news it is stated that a movement was on foot among young men in the town to have the Islands, as before, connected by bridges with the banks of the river and with each other. The Town Council exposed feus on their farm of Muirfield, but there was no offer. Some lots were feued at Island Bank by the Gas and Water Company, and by Mr James Falconer, teacher, the latter for the house occupied by him, and the offices and garden connected with it.



March 13.—The Rev. Robert Eden was consecrated Bishop of Moray and Ross in St Paul's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh.

Ibid.—There is a notice of local contributions to the great Exhibition. Mr Macdougall, of the Tartan Warehouse, sent a large collection of goods, which included tartans, tweeds, shawls, Shetland wool, and native dyes; also fine specimens of Cairngorms lent by the Countess of Seafield, and a deer's head, eagle, and heron from gentlemen in the county and in Ross-shire. Mr Mackillican, Piperhill, Nairn, despatched specimens of wheat and rye-grass seed. A model apparatus for measuring the girth of growing timber at any distance from the ground, invented by Mr Alexander Davidson, Whitemire, Darnaway, was forwarded by Dr Grigor, Nairn. An improved design in forceps used in dental surgery, and a new vehicle called the Victoria car, were contributed from Elgin, the one by Mr Stewart, dentist, the other by Mr Anderson, coachbuilder. Three models were sent by Mr Bremner, Wick, one showing the method by which he had floated the steamer Great Britain in Dundrum Bay, another his plan for the construction of Lossiemouth Harbour, and the third his design for building harbours by caissons, showing how several hundred feet of harbour could be built in the caisson, then towed by steamers and placed on the intended site. "Our nearest local committee is that of Elgin, and to its accomplished secretary, Patrick Duff, Esq., the local contributors are much indebted."

Ibid.—The principal tenants in Glen-Urquhart had formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of trying experiments in the growth of flax.—Sir John Macneill, of the Board of Supervision, had been entrusted by the Government with an inquiry into the condition of the Highlands. There was some revival of smuggling in the Highlands, and cases are reported in this and other issues.

March 20.—Some of the men from Barra who had come north found employment with Mr Mackintosh, Auchnacloich, near Nairn, and with Mr Bain, builder, Inverness. There are notices of land reclama-



tion at Drumin and Milton, near the cross roads, and at Culblair in the same neighbourhood.—Mr Dunbar, innkeeper at Lochinver, was sending to the Exhibition a large case of the game of Sutherland.—Mr Robert Anderson, Cooperhill, Darnaway, better known in later years as Mr Anderson of Lochdhu, was entertained at a public dinner at Nairn, and presented with handsome gifts. It is stated that the people of Nairn were chiefly indebted to him for the establishment of their corn market.

March 27.—The final report of the Edinburgh Highland Destitution Board was published, but the accounts were delayed for professional examination. Only £1900 was now in the hands of the Committee, and they recommended that £500 should be set apart for Shetland, and the remaining £1400 distributed over destitute districts for the relief of extreme cases of distress. In Sutherland, nineteen miles of the Loch-Laxford Road were formed, and a sum had been set apart to secure the completion of fifteen miles still to be made. In Wester Ross all the great lines of road undertaken by the proprietors in conjunction with the Board, extending to ninety miles, had been completed. Fourteen piers had been built in Wester Ross and ten in Skye. The advances made by boat crews in Skye had not proved remunerative. The committee, however, believed that they had succeeded in establishing a permanent hosiery trade in the island.

Ibid.—The solicitors of the Inverness bar asked Mr Fraser-Tytler, sheriff of the county, to sit for his bust. In complying, he said he had presided in the Court for forty-one years, and survived two generations of practitioners.

April 3.—The birth of an heir to Mr and Mrs Arthur Forbes of Culloden was celebrated by the tenantry on the estates. The child grew up to manhood, but died in 1874, and the present Culloden (1909) is a grand-nephew of the proprietor of that date. He lives in Australia, and the property is managed by trustees.

April 10.—Sir John Macneill wrote a strong letter to the inspectors of poor in Skye



insisting on the duty of providing relief for destitute persons, and intimating that if any person who had been refused relief should perish from want of food, the official would be liable to a charge of culpable homicide. The editor interpreted this as meaning that the destitute population of the Highlands and Islands was now committed to the unassisted care of the Parochial Boards. "The results we contemplate with alarm. Bad as the past condition of the Highlands has been, it must become rapidly worse under the pressure of such a weight. The effect of one year's destitution falling upon the comparatively few solvent ratepayers in these districts will embarrass them deeply, and spread a depressing influence over all for years to come."

*Ibid.*—The small estate of Glenmoidart in the parish of Ardnamurchan, the property of Mr L. Chisholm, was put up for sale at £4500, and disposed of for £5050. The new proprietor's name was not mentioned.

*Ibid.*—Sir John Macleod, C.B., K.C.H., died on the 2nd inst. He entered the army in 1793 as an ensign in the 78th Regiment, and served in Holland under the Duke of York. He commanded the 2nd Battalion of the 78th in the campaign in Flanders in 1814, and was in command of the brigade which carried the village of Mexem on 14th January of that year, on which occasion he was severely wounded. Sir John belonged to the Bernera family, and Mr Alexander Mackenzie states in his history of the Macleods that he was born 1766.

April 17 and 24.—Petitions against Papal aggression were extensively signed throughout the Highlands as well as in other parts of the country.—The Free Church congregation of Knockbain, in the Black Isle, had been eighteen months without a minister, and was now divided as to the election of a successor. One half of the congregation had signed a call, but a large number, amounting nearly to another half, petitioned against it. The Synod of Ross resolved to remit the case to the Presbytery, with instructions to begin proceed-



ings afresh, but appeal was taken to the General Assembly.

May 1 and 8.—The opening of the Great Exhibition is referred to in the first issue, and described at length in the second. The marriage of Lord Ward, then proprietor of Glengarry, to Miss Selins Constance de Burgh of West Drayton, was celebrated by rejoicings on the estate.—In Inverness a number of young men had established a town missionary scheme supported by voluntary contributions. The first missionary was Mr Macbeth, who long discharged the duties, and ultimately became a Free Church clergyman in the Island of Lewis.—Dr John Tulloch, Professor of Mathematics in King's College, Aberdeen, died on the 4th inst. He was a native of Caithness, and taught Latin in the Inverness Royal Academy before his appointment to King's College in 1811.

May 15 and 22.—The long accounts of the Exhibition, written by a special correspondent, show what an impression the undertaking produced on the public mind. In the sculpture rooms the writer remarks a group of Francesca and Paolo, contributed by Mr A. Munro, Inverness. In the agricultural department he devotes special attention to the samples of wheat and perennial ryegrass seed grown by Mr Mackillican, Piperhill, Cawdor. "The wheat is of the white description of crop 1850. It was raised from newly improved land, previously not worth a shilling an acre. It was a first crop, the manure, 3 cwts. of Peruvian guano to the acre, and the produce was about five quarters per imperial acre, weighing 65 lbs. 1 oz. to the bushel. The ryegrass seed was the produce of the third year's crop, and its weight is enormously large, namely, 37 lbs. 3 oz. per bushel. It carried the silver medal at last Inverness Show, besides a premium of £2 2s. What the foreign departments may produce in this branch of competition is not yet apparent, but among the few samples of ryegrass seed in this gallery there is none to compare with Mr Mackillican's by 6 lbs. weight per bushel. Nor under the circumstances is his wheat beaten. The weight of the Windsor Home



Farm wheat, shown by the Prince Consort, is not more than  $66\frac{1}{2}$  lbs."

*Ibid.*—The Highland stall, bearing the name of D. Macdougall, Inverness, is described as occupying the finest site in the whole Exhibition, shaded by an old elm, whose green leaves sheltered and embraced the eagles that adorned the stall. Surmounted by a splendid deer's head, with the two eagles on the side pillars, the stall with its tartans, brooches, Cairngorms, and tweeds made a brave show. The stall, says the writer, "attracts much notice among the many prominent points of the Exhibition, and I never went up to it without finding parties of the nobility examining, and apparently with interest, the multifarious contributions from many Highland homes which it presents." Another Inverness contributor, Mr Masson, jeweller, sent a uniquely-mounted ram's horn, a silver brooch, etc. Sir James Matheson sent from the Lews two pair of very fine hand-screens made from the feathers of Hebridean wild birds by Miss Cameron, Stornoway. Mr Dunbar's wild animals and birds from Sutherland had an appropriate place.

*Ibid.*—The estate of Kinlochluichart was purchased by Mr Andrew Jardine, partner of Mr Alexander Matheson of Ardrross, but the price is not mentioned. The estate of Letterfinlay, Loch-Lochy, was sold for £20,000. It is subsequently stated that the purchaser was Mr Henry J. Baillie, M.P. for the county.—A paragraph on antiquities mentions a curious horn, which had come into the possession of Captain Douglas, Scatwell. It was of large size, richly carved with acorns, flowers, and scrolls, and bore the date 1597. The relic appears to have been used as a sounding horn or trumpet, but it occasionally did duty as a drinking cup, a stopper being inserted at one end.—A specimen of the Iceland falcon, rare in this country, had been shot at Inverbroom.

May 29 and June 5.—The copious articles on the Exhibition are brought to a close on the latter date, having occupied many columns, which may yet be read with interest.—The Ness Islands were still without bridges, and efforts were suggested for raising money to erect them.



June 12.—The returns of the census taken on 31st March were now being published. The population of the burgh of Inverness was 12,667, being an increase of 1110 since 1841. The landward part of the parish gave a total of 3758, being a decrease of 103. The population of the county of Inverness was returned at 96,280, showing a decrease of 1212. This decrease occurred chiefly in the western parishes and islands.—The new market buildings at Elgin were opened for the transaction of business on the previous Friday.

June 19.—Daniel Grant, Manchester, a member of the firm drawn by Charles Dickens under the name of the brothers Cheeryble, died on the previous Thursday at his residence, Ramsbottom, near Bury. His elder brother, William, died about four years earlier. When boys they left Strathspey with their father for the manufacturing districts of England, and in process of time they became very prosperous. "Their benevolence was known throughout the manufacturing districts as well as their great wealth, and it was an oft-quoted remark of the elder brother, 'that the more money they gave away the more they made.'"—Dr Joseph Wolff, missionary and traveller, was at this time in the North preaching and delivering lectures. His adventurous journey to Bokhara in 1843 had created great interest.

June 26.—A party of emigrants had left Scrabster for Quebec. The Sutherland contingent wrote a letter to the Duke thanking him for paying their passage and providing comforts for themselves and their families during the voyage.—A movement in favour of protection was active all over the country. In this issue there is a correspondence on the subject between Mr W. H. Murray of Geanies and Sir James Matheson, member for Ross-shire.

July 3.—The foundation stone of what is now the Inverness United Free High Church was laid on the 1st inst. It was then called the new English Free Church. Before the ceremony service was conducted by the Rev. Charles Brown, New North Free Church, Edinburgh, in the church which was



erected in Bank Street immediately after the Disruption. The foundation stone of the new church was laid by Mr Forbes of Culloden (Mr Arthur Forbes), after an address by the pastor of the congregation, Rev. Joseph Thorburn. "The weather was fine, and from the picturesque grouping of the people, with the river flowing closely past, the scene must have appeared to the passer beautiful and impressive."

*Ibid.*—A Stornoway correspondent writes:—"Emigration has now for this season ceased, the last ship with her living cargo having left Loch-Roag on Saturday evening. In all upwards of 1000 persons, old and young, have shipped from here to America, and under circumstances which reflect the highest credit and honour on Sir James Matheson." Sir James had foregone all arrears, taken the effects of the people at valuation, and transferred them free of expense across the Atlantic. He had also engaged to have them conveyed to any spot in Upper or Lower Canada which they might select. It is stated that most of the emigrants had friends and relations before them in comfortable circumstances.

*Ibid.*—There is an interesting paragraph about a brace of eagles and an eaglet captured by Mr Ross, gamekeeper at Gairloch. On the third day of their captivity the parent birds showed remarkable tameness, the female feeding the young bird "with as much ease and freedom as if still at liberty in her native mountains." The male bird weighed fully 9 lbs., and the female close on 11 lbs.—A meeting of shareholders in the Shrewsbury and Chester Railway was held at Inverness to promote an agreement with the London and North-Western Companies. The meeting was convened by a gentleman then well known in Inverness, Major-General Macinnes, who was accompanied by a few friends from London. Ultimately the shareholders preferred the Great Western alliance.

July 10.—A poor man in the parish of Snizort in Skye, a pauper, was reported



by the medical officers to have died of starvation.

July 17.—At the Wool Market this year there was a rise of price for sheep of 1s to 1s 6d, and in some cases 2s above the previous year. Lambs showed ten per cent. of an advance. In wool there was a fall of from 1s 6d to 2s per stone. A well-known salesman, Mr John Pagan, from Liverpool, died at Inverness a few days after the market, aged about sixty. He was a native of Moffat, in Dumfriesshire, and an extensive farmer before he removed to Liverpool. For twenty-five years or more he never missed attending the Inverness market, purchasing each year stock to the amount of from £10,000 to £15,000. "No man ever had to complain of unfairness or of a shade of meanness on the part of John Pagan. He was a genuine Dandie Dinmont in sterling honesty and kindness of heart, as well as in his broad athletic frame and speech."

Ibid.—The same issue records the death of the poet Wordsworth's son-in-law, Edward Quillinan, of Loughrigg Holme, near Ambleside, who had been a frequent contributor to the literary columns of the "Courier." The deceased was the son of an English merchant in Oporto, and when the English residents were driven out of Oporto by the French in the Napoleonic War, he entered the British Army as a cornet of dragoons, and was actively engaged down to the termination of the war. "He quitted the service in 1821, and settled in the Lake country, near Rydal, the residence of his friend Wordsworth. He was twice married, and may be said in both instances to have been singularly felicitous and singularly unfortunate in his domestic life. His first wife, a daughter of Sir Egerton Brydges, was burned to death, 'by flames caught at her own fireside,' at the age of twenty-eight, leaving two daughters, the chosen favourites of Wordsworth in his walks and in his poetry. His second wife, Dora Wordsworth, the beloved daughter of the poet, died in 1847, a few years after their union, having shortly before published a *Journal of a Few Months' Resi-*



dence in Portugal, whither she had gone in pursuit of health."

July 24.—The ex-Queen of the French, Marie Amelia, the Duchess d'Orleans, the Prince de Joinville, and other members of their families and suite, visited the Highlands. The ex-Queen stayed at Oban, but the Duchess and her friends came through the Caledonian Canal to Inverness, and thence drove to Aviemore on their way to Blair Atholl.

Ibid.—The London correspondent says:—"There are many northern readers who will be glad to hear that Mr A. Munro, the sculptor, has been commissioned by Mr Gladstone, M.P., to execute for him in marble the group of Francesca and Paolo Rimini, which is exhibited in the sculpture room of the Crystal Palace. I may add that Mr Munro's work has excited great attention, and has been generally and favourably noticed. The 'Spectator' considered it by far the most promising work of the younger sculptors exhibited."

July 31.—Sir John Macneill's report on the state of the Highlands had been presented to Parliament. It formed a blue-book of two hundred pages, and its contents led then and afterwards to much discussion. It was, however, satisfactory to be told that though much general suffering had been endured, no case of actual want of food could be discovered. The care of the people was now left to the parochial boards. Sir John concluded as follows:—"There is good reason to hope that this season will pass away, not certainly without painful suffering, but without the loss of life in consequence of the cessation of eleemosynary aid. But if henceforth the population is to depend for subsistence on the local resources, some fearful calamity will probably occur before many years unless a portion of the inhabitants of those parishes remove to where they can find the means of subsistence in greater abundance and with greater certainty than they can find them where they now are." Sir John recommended extensive family emigration as a first step, leaving to those interested the subsequent



measures for the permanent improvement of the people who remained, pointing to the granting of leases as likely to foster industrious habits where the disposition existed, and the importance of improved education to remove false impressions and ideas from the minds of the Highland population. A measure to facilitate emigration was at once introduced by the Lord Advocate into Parliament, authorising the advance of money for the purpose to landlords on the principle of the Drainage Act, at the rate of  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.

*Ibid.*—The foundation stone of a new Free Church at Portree had been recently laid by the Rev. Mr Macleod, Snizort. The church was to be built at the expense of Miss Louisa Macdonald of Brighton, a lady connected with the Macdonald family. It was to accommodate 500 people, and to cost £800.—Mr Gabriel Reid, Gordonbush, Sutherland, took ill on his way home from the Wool Market, and died at the house of his son-in-law in Tain. He was greatly respected, and much regretted.

*Ibid.*—Mr Gladstone's letter to Lord Aberdeen on the cruelty of the King of Naples had been published, and was creating a profound impression.

*Ibid.*—The following paragraph in the London letter is of some length, but deserves to be quoted in full:—"There is a common pedestrian of London streets well known to all who are acquainted with their notabilities. He is a short, stout, sturdy, energetic man. He has a big round face, and large, staring and very bright hazel eyes. His hair is cut short, and his hat flung back on the crown of his head. His gait is firm and decided, with a little touch of pomposity. He is ever provided with an umbrella, which he swings and flourishes and batters on the pavement with mighty thumps. He seems generally absorbed in exciting and impulsive thought, the traces of which he takes no pains to conceal. His face works, his lips move and mutter, his eyes gleam and flash. Squat as is the figure, and not particularly fine the features, there is an unmistakeable air of mental power and energy, approaching to grandeur, about



the man. He is evidently under the influence of the strong excitement of fiery thought. People gaze curiously at him, and stop to stare when he has passed. But he heeds no one—seems indeed to have utterly forgotten that he is not alone in his privacy, and pushes energetically on, unwitting of the many who stare and smile, or of the few who step respectfully aside, and look with curiosity and regard upon Thomas Babington Macaulay. Occasionally, however, the historian and poet gives still freer vent to the mental impulses which appear to be continually working within him. A friend of mine lately recognised him dining in the coffee-room of the Trafalgar Hotel, at Greenwich—a fashionable whitebait house, which it appears he frequently patronises. He was alone, as he generally is, and the attention of more than one of the company was attracted by his peculiar muttering and fidgetiness, and by the mute gestures with which he ever and anon illustrated his mental dreamings. All at once—it must have been towards the climax of the prose or verse which he was working at in his mind—Mr Macaulay seized a massive decanter, held it a moment suspended in the air, and then dashed it down upon the table with such hearty good-will that the solid crystal flew about in fragments, while the numerous parties dining round instinctively started up and stared at the curious iconoclast. Not a whit put out, however, Mr Macaulay, who was well known to the waiters, called loudly for his bill to be made out at the bar, and then, pulling with a couple of jerks his hat and his umbrella from the stand, clapped the one carelessly on his head, and strode out flourishing the other.”

August 7.—The ex-Queen of France and party travelled from Oban to Inverness by steamer. They stayed a night at Banavie, and on their way through Loch-Ness visited the Falls of Foyers. The party remained for two days at the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, and had excursions to the Falls of Kilmorack and Culloden Moor. The Queen returned by steamer to Oban,



while the Duke of Nemours and the Prince de Joinville went north to visit Caithness and the Orkneys.

**Ibid.**—The Inverness Bridge Bill had passed its third reading in the House of Lords.—The Town Council had agreed to purchase from the Prison Board the old jail in Bridge Street at a valuation of £420, and intended to convert the lower flat into shops.—The editor gives his annual paragraph on steamers and coaches. He mentions that a very fast and finely equipped new steamer, the Duke of Sutherland, "one of the quickest and most comfortable vessels afloat," was plying to London. The Exhibition had reduced the ordinary number of English and Scottish tourists, but large contingents of foreigners, chiefly French and German, were visiting the Highlands. Street musicians were so numerous that it seemed as if "all the boys, the young men, and the old in Italy, not to speak of Italianised English and Irish," had speculated in a musical excursion to Scotland.

**Ibid.**—Extensive emigration was going on from Barra and South Uist, the property of Colonel Gordon. Four ships were embarking the people, a thousand from South Uist, and five hundred from Barra. The vessels were apparently provided by the proprietor, but the Parochial Boards were furnishing the outfit.

**August 14.**—The list of shootings let, as published this year, numbers about 150. Besides sportsmen there was now an increase in the number of English tourists.—The new settlement of the Sollas crofters, undertaken by the Perth Committee, was not proving a success. The Committee said the people were indolent, but critics said that a fundamental error had been committed in placing the settlement too far from the shore. The season had also proved unfavourable.

**August 21.**—The search for Cairngorm stones was renewed in the mountains this season. It was believed that a good many stones had been found the previous year, but that few had enriched strangers. "To find a stray needle in a haystack is as easy a task



as to search out a good crystal on Cairngorm."

August 28.—The Rev. John Kennedy, of Hampstead, London, who had visited Skye, issued a report on the subject. He found that there was no risk of suffering for months to come, but he regarded the future as very dark. The Parochial Boards would not again carry out the exceptional measures they had recently taken, as their legality was doubtful; and he believed the Government scheme of emigration would prove a dead letter so far as Skye was concerned. The insuperable difficulty lay in this, that nearly the whole island was under trust, and it was not likely that the trustees would further burden the properties for emigration purposes. Meanwhile, however, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of the local sheriff, Mr Fraser, to form a voluntary Emigration Association.—Mr Robert Brown, Hamilton, formerly a factor in Argyll and in Ross-shire, strongly recommended the cultivation of flax in the Highlands and Islands.

Ibid.—Alexander Macdonell of Milnfield died at Edinburgh on the 11th inst. He was Sheriff-Substitute of Wigtownshire for seventeen years, and his remains were interred in the churchyard of Wigtown.

September 4.—The London correspondent warmly defends the Highland crofters and cottars against charges brought by southern writers. He says—"When nearly all the valuable and productive grounds were taken away from the poor cottars, and given on lease in huge allotments to stock farmers with large capital, the former were left almost without a motive to exertion or industry of any kind. All their efforts could not extract food for their families from the miserable and barren pendicles allotted to them for their subsistence. Hence were generated the habits of idleness and apathy. It was of no use to work when work could not produce any beneficial result. . . . No people can work better, or fight better, when there is occasion for it, than the Highland and Island Celts; they are kinder in their disposition, naturally much



more graceful in their manners; with bodies less bulky, it is true, but more active, and capable of enduring more fatigue and hardship than their burly neighbours in the Lowlands." The writer's proposals for amelioration were, first, emigration on a large scale; second, the prosecution of fisheries on a better basis, helped by the colonisation of east coast fishermen; third, conversion of peat moss into charcoal and manure; and fourth, the cultivation of flax.

Ibid.—The Home Secretary, Sir George Grey, and Lady Grey, were cruising in northern waters, and paid a visit to the gorge of the Black Rock, at Novar, and to Fortrose Cathedral.—Mr Robert Harper, a Cambridge scholar, was elected rector of Inverness Royal Academy.

Ibid.—The United Presbyterian congregation at Nairn had adopted plans for a new church. The old building had been sold for 400 guineas, and Colonel Ketchen had contributed £200 to the building fund.

September 11.—The Mackintosh Trustees accepted an offer of £890 for the construction of an embankment and roadway from Kessock towards the Canal. "The proposed embankment is to begin at the roadway at Kessock Pier, and proceed towards the Canal, to the bank of which the road will be joined, should Mr Duff of Muirtown proceed with the embankment of that portion of the ground which belongs to his estate."—The issue contains a notice of a pamphlet by Dr Mackenzie of Eileanach, replying to statements made by Sir John Macneill in his report on the Highlands.

Ibid.—An extensive series of thefts of sheep had been going on in Badenoch. At length a lot of twenty sheep was sold to a flesher in Campbelltown, and as they bore the marks of a Badenoch sheep farm, the seller was apprehended. He had gone about his business with great deliberation, having apparently gathered a large drove.

September 18.—Reaping machines were much talked of about this time. It is stated in this issue that in course of a few days there would be a dozen new reaping machines in operation in Easter Ross.



September 25.—There are long and interesting extracts from an article on the Highlands and the Exhibition which had appeared, with pictorial embellishments, in the "Illustrated London News." The writer, evidently Mr A. B. Reach, had taken his text from the Highland stall.

Ibid.—The Northern Meeting of the previous week presented the usual features. "A number of the chiefs and other gentlemen wore the dress of the clans. Mr Roualeyn Cumming was particularly distinguished by the singularity of the costume he wore, and his popularity amongst the townspeople was abundantly evidenced during the Meeting by the admiring crowds who followed whenever and wherever he appeared."

Ibid.—"We understand that arrangements have been completed for the purchase of the property known as Castle Tolmie, the removal of which is rendered necessary by the nature of the proposed new bridge and approaches."

Ibid.—The "Courier" had an excellent correspondent in Skye, who sent many interesting notes during the year. In this issue he gives an account of a visit to the settlement of Sollas crofters in North Uist, which was called New Perth, as it was carried out at the expense of a Perth Committee. The results are again reported as altogether unsatisfactory. The correspondent thinks that the people had laboured well, but they had an exceedingly poor subject to work upon. "Either the place is quite unsuited for the purpose, or the nature of the soil has been entirely misunderstood by the person in charge of the affair; for such a display of failure in the first instance, I should think, has never been witnessed anywhere." The writer thinks that the money laid out, at least £1000. would have been much better employed in sending the people to some of the colonies, or in paying the arrears of their rent at Sollas, and helping them to improve their stock and crofts.

October 2.—Mr Joseph Hume, M.P., who has been described as "one of the most practical reformers in a reforming age," was on a visit to Redcastle, and was pre-



sented by the Inverness Town Council with the freedom of the burgh. The ceremony took place in the Northern Meeting Rooms, and Mr Hume delivered a long speech.—The Industrial Society in Sutherland held a show of home manufactures in Sutherland. Plaids, flannels, druggets, and socks formed the staple of the exhibition. A show of cattle and home-mades was also held at Lochinver.

October 9.—There is a column of "closing notes" on the great Exhibition. The writer regrets that but for Mr Macdougall's stall, which was universally allowed to be most creditable to him, the Highlands were practically unrepresented. "With the exception of a few pavement slabs from Caithness, of an indifferent collection of granites from Argyllshire, and of the metallic ores in Lord Breadalbane's mines, and of the lead mines at Strontian, belonging to Sir James M. Riddell, there is nothing in the great Exhibition to indicate that the North of Scotland contains anything curious or suited for the use of man." The writer contrasts with this the vases, cisterns, and polished slabs sent from Sweden, Wales, and Cornwall.

October 9 and 16.—Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Fraser of Braelangwell died there on the 6th inst. Sir Hugh was a son of Commissary Fraser, of Inverness, and went early to India, where he achieved distinction. "Some years after his return home, he became proprietor of Braelangwell, in Cromartyshire, which he made the place of his residence, and which, by a judicious expenditure of money, he greatly improved and enhanced in value." He is described as a single-hearted, honourable man.

October 23.—Notwithstanding the recent complaint about the Highlands and the Exhibition, the editor notes that the North did not come off without honour. Mr D. Macdougall had received a prize medal for his display of native industries, and Mr Mackillican, Piperhill, Cawdor, one for his sample of wheat. The jury also considered his ryegrass seed an extraordinary sample, but no exhibitor could receive more than one prize medal. Messrs Bremner and Sons, Wick, had received honour-



able mention for their plan of keeping out the sea while harbour works were going on; and J. Gordon the same for an anatomical model in ivory. The latter was a native of Nairn though long resident elsewhere. Notice was also taken of J. Sinclair, Thurso, for Forss pavement. Mr Masson, jeweller, Inverness, had sent contributions, which appeared under the name of Lister and Son, Newcastle, and that firm had received a medal.

October 23 and 30.—The "Quarterly Review" had an article on the religious class in the Highlands known as "The Men," founded on two recent publications, one on the Church in the Far North, by Investigator, and the other "Notes on the Construction of Sheep Folds," by John Ruskin. The London correspondent gives a series of extracts from the review in the issue of the 23rd. On the 30th there is a vigorous reply to the strictures of the reviewer, written by a Highland minister.

October 30.—Mr Patrick Sellar of Ardtornish, whose name is associated with the clearances in the early part of the nineteenth century in the county of Sutherland, died at Elgin on the 28th inst., in the seventy-third year of his age. He was an extensive sheep farmer, proprietor of the estates of Ardtornish and Acharn, in Argyllshire, and also of the small estate of Westfield, near Elgin, which he had inherited from his father. Mr Sellar was one of the original founders of the Inverness Wool Fair, and a man of great energy and perseverance. It is stated that no one could meet him even accidentally without being struck with the vigour and originality of his mind. "It is a curious fact in the life of a gentleman so conspicuous for his knowledge and success in the rearing of stock that he was bred to the law, and became a sheep farmer by a sort of accident. His father was one of eight Morayshire proprietors who bought Burghead, and built a harbour there. They established a packet vessel to sail between Burghead and Sutherland, and in the first trip of the vessel in May 1809, Mr Sellar embarked to see the terra incognita of Sutherland. One of the parties in this scheme was the



late Mr William Young, who was also commissioner or manager for the then Marquis of Stafford. Mr Sellar was related to Mr Young, and being delighted with the appearance of the country, he gladly obtained a sheep farm, and relinquished the pursuit of the law." In private life Mr Sellar was an agreeable companion, ever lively and acute, and well-informed on the literature and public questions of the day.

*Ibid.*—A monumental fountain, erected at Golspie to the memory of the late Duchess-Countess of Sutherland, had just been completed. The memorial was mainly of blue granite, with vase and upper basin of red granite. Contributions to the amount of £700 had been given by all classes in the county.

*Ibid.*—Mr Lewis, "a gentleman of colour," had been giving expositions of electro-biology or mesmerism in Inverness and other northern towns. His experiments created great astonishment.

*Ibid.*—Kossuth, the Hungarian orator and patriot, had been liberated by the Porte, and came with his family to England. On coming ashore at Southampton he shook hands with the Mayor, and other friends, and exclaimed—"Ah, now, I feel I am free. I am free when I touch your soil."

November 6.—A Greenock paper announces the death of Mr Mackenzie, a member of the firm of Messrs Stevenson, Mackenzie, and Brassey, the eminent contractors, who died at Liverpool, in his 57th year. Mr Mackenzie was a native of Ross-shire, and spent part of the previous season at Strathpeffer Spa.

*Ibid.*—At a meeting of the Inverness Farmer Society a report was read in favour of the cultivation of flax. Some of the members, however, who had either tried experiments or knew of them, suggested caution. Mr Gentle Dell, said that flax was a deteriorating crop, and far from remunerative.

November 6 and 13.—Information was lodged with the police that a forged cheque for £150, purporting to be signed by the Duke of Buccleuch, had been passed by a lady visitor in the Isle of Man, and that a vessel



on which she was travelling was expected to pass through the Caledonian Canal. The vessel came to Inverness, and the lady, who was accompanied by relatives, was apprehended, and remitted, in charge of an officer, to the Isle of Man.

November 20.—A monument was erected in the churchyard of Dingwall to Captain Donald Maclellan, a citizen who died in 1848. He had a remarkable career in the Indian and South Seas before he settled down in his native town, and an account of the adventures of himself and his brothers is given in this issue. Captain Maclellan purchased the site of the ancient Castle of the Earls of Ross, and erected on it the present house, which is known as Dingwall Castle.

November 27.—Five fishermen were drowned at Nairn by the upsetting of a boat, when they were making for the mouth of the river. They had attempted to enter in a north wind, without shortening sail, with the result that the boat was caught broadside, and capsized.—A communicated article on "The Laigh of Gruinard" is another contribution to discussion on the condition of the Highlands.

December 4.—The Great North of Scotland Railway Company was now moving for the construction of a line between Aberdeen and Inverness, and had entered into provisional contracts for the purpose. They did not expect, however, to make the line at the time beyond Keith.—Contractors had already commenced operations on the line from Elgin to Lossiemouth.

Ibid.—Record is made of the death of Mr Colin Alexander Mackenzie at his house in Hyde Park, London, in the 73rd year of his age. He was a native of London, but his grandfather had been a bailie of Dingwall. In 1810 he was sent by the British Government to Morlaix to negotiate an exchange of prisoners with Napoleon, and was afterwards employed in other missions. Mr Mackenzie left a sum of money to establish a museum and library in Dingwall.

Ibid.—Mr Thomas Morrison, headmaster of the Free Church Institution in Inverness, had just been appointed rector of the Free



Church Normal School, Glasgow. He had been successful in his work in Inverness, and for many years thereafter discharged his duties in Glasgow with distinction.

December 11.—There had been a municipal crisis in Dingwall, resulting in the resignation of Provost Ross and five councillors. The remaining councillors, in filling up the vacancies, promoted Sir James Matheson, who had been an honorary burgess, to the status of a full burgess, and then proceeded to elect him as Provost of the burgh.

Ibid.—The *coup d'état* of Napoleon in France is the exciting topic of public interest. For months the state of affairs had been such that some strong step on the part of the President was expected. It may be noted that Marshal Soult, the first Napoleon's famous officer, died only a few days before the third Napoleon struck his revolutionary blow.

December 18.—Mr Thomas Fraser of Eskdale, Paris correspondent of the "Morning Chronicle," had been ordered to leave France on account of his letters commenting on the proceedings of Napoleon and his associates. A remonstrance, however, was signed by the British residents, and Mr Fraser was allowed to remain.

Ibid.—Throughout the year there had been frequent references to the movement for the adoption by women of the costume known as "Bloomerism," which originated in America, and crossed the ocean. At length a lady appeared in the costume in Lowe's Hall, Inverness, and delivered a lecture in advocacy of the so-called reform. Her appearance, however, in a short skirt, or kilt, and wide Turkish trousers, did not commend the innovation.

December 18 and 25.—A whale made itself at home for a week in the narrows of Kessock Ferry and neighbourhood without being captured. Boats did not venture to approach it close enough to drive it ashore. At length it grounded on a bank between Redcastle and Charlestown, and a Clachnaharry crew were the first to approach, and succeeded in killing it.



## No. XI.

The year 1852 possesses political interest. When the year opened the Whigs, under Lord John Russell, were in office, with Lord Palmerston in the attitude of a hostile critic. Owing to the seizure of supreme power in France by Louis Napoleon, apprehension sprung up in this country, and the Premier introduced a bill for the establishment of a "local" militia. Lord Palmerston moved the substitution of "regular" for local, and carried his amendment by a majority of 11 votes. Lord John resigned, and Lord Derby (formerly Lord Stanley) formed an administration, with Mr Disraeli as Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons. The new Government was favourable to protection if they could get a large enough majority. On a dissolution, however, the constituencies returned a majority of Liberals. Mr Disraeli met the new Parliament, and proposed a scheme of finance which was severely criticised by Mr Gladstone, and rejected by a majority of 305 votes to 286. Thereupon the Ministry resigned, and a new Government, a Coalition, was formed under Lord Aberdeen. The Cabinet included Mr Gladstone as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Lord Palmerston as Home Secretary.

The Duke of Wellington died in September in the 84th year of his age. His removal was commented on as significant in the year in which the ambition of Napoleon had revived the Imperial throne in France. Among our colonies, owing to the discovery of gold, Australia attracted a large volume of emigrants. A bill was passed giving a new constitution to New Zealand.

In the month of January a severe snow-storm isolated Inverness for a week from communication with the South. In course of the year proposals and discussions about emigration from the Highlands continued.



January 1.—The announcement that Lord Palmerston had ceased to be a member of the Government created great surprise. Afterwards it became known that he had been dismissed from the office of Foreign Secretary by Lord John Russell, because he had in a conversation with the French Ambassador expressed approbation of the policy of Prince Louis Napoleon in putting an end to the Republican Government in France. He had done this without consulting his colleagues or the Queen, and though Lord Palmerston himself regarded the conversation as unofficial, his explanation was considered insufficient, more especially as there had been previous occasions of friction. On 19th December 1851 Lord John wrote to Palmerston that no course was left to him but 'to ask her Majesty to appoint a successor to you at the Foreign Office.'

*Ibid.*—Mr David Lindsay, accountant, Edinburgh, had made a financial report on the work of the Edinburgh section of the Central Committee for the relief of destitution in the Highlands and Islands. Subscriptions and contributions amounted to £80,086 4s; supplies of grain and meal from America, etc., £13,255, making a total of £93,341. In addition to this sum contributions were made by the British Relief Association, making the total received by the Committee, £151,532 1s 6d. The expenditure amounted to £150,227 10s 5d, leaving a balance in favour of the fund at 1st July 1851 of £1304 11s 1d. Much discussion had taken place as to the policy and administration of the Board, and the editor, while defending the work on the whole, acknowledged that "the result of this splendid fund has altogether been so unpopular and so unproductive generally, proportioned to its amount, that we are convinced no such subscription will ever again be raised for the Highlands."

*Ibid.*—A soiree was held in connection with the Inverness Mechanics' Institution, and suggestions were made for extending its usefulness.

January 8.—John Maclean, known at one time as the Nonagenarian, and afterwards as the Centenarian, died on the previous



day "in the little cottage on the west side of the river in which he was born one hundred and five years since." The exact date of his birth is given as January 6th, 1747, old style. John, we are told, was a tailor by trade, and having often been engaged in youth working in the houses of lairds and farmers (his wages being 6d per day and his victuals) he possessed a large fund of anecdote. "In his youth there was only a weekly post from the south, by means of foot-runners, over the mulls; and when the weather happened to be 'coarse,' or the runner took 'a glass too much,' the letters were often several days behind. Afterwards the post was brought thrice a week by way of Aberdeen. He remembered when the first post-chaise was brought here, which continued for a long time to be the only four-wheeled carriage in the district; and about ten years afterwards (1770) the first cargo of coals was brought to the town, one cargo in the year being sufficient for many years. The people were at first much surprised to find the 'black stones' burn better than the country peats. At that time there was no bank in the town; the houses were mostly thatched; there was plenty of fish and game, and no lack of smuggled tea and brandy and cheap wine, so that the merchants and writers were well off, and their apprentices found them out at night wherever they were, and saw them safe home, though there were no lamps in the streets." John is described as a shrewd, chatty, old man, with a most retentive memory, which was but little impaired at the time of his death. "Two hours before his death he conversed with those at his bedside, and asked them to sing a few verses of the 118th psalm, in which he joined." There was a small volume issued for Maclean in 1842 by the editor of an Inverness newspaper of that day, called the "Herald." It bears the title "Reminiscences of a Clachnacuddin Nonagenarian," and was re-issued in 1886. Mr William Mackay, solicitor, shows that in one point at least John's memory was at fault. Bailie John Stuart, an Inverness merchant, brought coals from Newcastle to



Cromarty and Inverness as early as 1721, and Mr Mackay thinks the probability is that he brought them even earlier. Possibly there was a cessation of the limited import owing to the financial troubles in which Stuart became involved, and the rising of 1745.

January 15.—Fresh discoveries of gold in Australia were exciting great interest. "Some time ago an immense mass of gold embedded in quartz, weighing altogether 3 cwt., was found near Bathurst, in Australia, by a settler, to whom it was pointed out by a native servant. The newspapers recorded how the lucky possessor went into town, driving tandem, with the rock of gold in his dogcart, how he rattled through the streets the observed of all eyes, and, drawing up at the bank door, sold his gold there for over £4000. We recall the circumstance merely to say that this immense mass arrived in London on Christmas day, consigned to Messrs Matheson and Co. The gold when separated from the quartz weighed 106 lbs, and was sold for £4160. The rock was broken up into small pieces, and filled three boxes. The largest piece, weighing 6 lbs. 4 ozs., has been taken from its box, and with several smaller samples has been exhibited, attracting many visitors."

Ibid.—A correspondent having written suggesting an inscription for the Culloden monument, the editor records that the work had long ago been abandoned for want of funds, almost indeed "before the foundations of the monument had been traced on the ground." It remained for the late Duncan Forbes of Culloden to erect a cairn in 1881.

January 15 and 22.—The Highlands were in the grip of a severe snowstorm, the heaviest, it was believed, since 1826. For six days no letters south of Badenoch reached Inverness, and communication with Aberdeen was exceedingly imperfect. At length a collection of seven days' mails arrived from Aberdeen. There were seventeen sackfuls of letters and newspapers. "The bags were brought up in a railway parcel-delivery carriage pressed into the service at Aberdeen, and drawn



all the way by seven horses." The editor states on the 15th inst. that he would have been in a bad way for news unless the masters of two Edinburgh steamers had favoured him with papers which they had brought from Leith. Six lives were lost in the snowstorm, and many persons had narrow escapes. Sheep stock suffered severely.

January 22.—The Rev. Charles Downie, minister of the parish of Contin, died on the 11th inst. in the 48th year of his age, and 26th of his ministry. "In him," it is stated, "the church in the North has lost one of its ablest clergymen."

January 29.—An article explains how the deed of entail, settling the estate of Auchinleck on heirs-male, was found to be invalid. The deed was drawn up at the instance of Lord Auchinleck, the father of James Boswell, Dr Johnson's biographer, though it embodied the son's wishes rather than the father's. The family, however, of the testator's great-grandson, Sir James Boswell, consisted only of daughters, and the laird, finding what he thought a flaw in the deed, brought it before the Court of Session. "The deed was found to be irretrievably vitiated and invalid. By the law of Scotland, confirmed by numerous decisions, when a word of any importance is written on an erasure, without being specified and authenticated in the testing or prohibiting clause, the effect is fatal to the object of the deed, by rendering it in legal language improbable. The Auchinleck deed was in this position. In the clause fettering the right of sale the word redeemable had by mistake been written instead of irredeemable. An erasure was made, and the first five letters 'irred' were written on this erasure, and no notice of the circumstance was taken in the testing clause." Thus a blunder of a copying-clerk annulled the deed.

Ibid.—Lieut.-Colonel Duncan Macpherson of Ardersier, formerly of the 78th Highlanders, died at Cheltenham on the 2nd inst. His first commission was dated 1793, when he joined the 3rd West India Regiment in Babadoes, and afterwards, in the 35th Regiment, served in Holland under



the Duke of York. In 1804 he purchased a company in the 78th Highlanders, and fought at Maida, where he was severely wounded, "but remained at the head of his company till the enemy were beat off the field and pursued across the river Lamato, until he fell from loss of blood." Afterwards he served in Egypt, Holland, and Java, twice suffering shipwreck. He retired as Brevet Lieut.-Colonel in 1826. Colonel Macpherson was the father of the late General Sir Herbert Macpherson, who died when in command of the expedition to Burmah in October 1886.

February 5.—The parochial authorities of Inverness were in a difficulty with a number of poor people who had come from Barra, either persons belonging to the first detachment, noticed on a previous occasion, or more probably others who had followed them. In the previous year (1851) correspondence had taken place, which is now published. The Inverness Inspector wished to charge the cost of their sustenance to the Barra Board, but the latter replied that they were not responsible for the able-bodied, and they demanded that any who were on the poor roll should be sent home to the island. The Barra authorities also said that these people had petitioned to be sent to Canada, and claimed that they should be returned to join the vessel. The people, however, would not return. The Secretary of the Board of Supervision found it difficult to give instructions, beyond saying that the Barra Board was entitled to insist on having their paupers removed to their own parish, but that they could not compel them to emigrate against their will—a fate which the people appeared to dread. So the colony remained in Inverness, in great poverty, but avoiding application to the Parochial Board. Their condition called forth great compassion, subscriptions being given on their behalf.

Ibid.—General Sir Lewis Grant, K.C.H., a well-known officer, died suddenly in London in his seventieth year. He had served in the 97th Regiment in the West Indies and elsewhere, and was for a term military



governor of the Bahamas. In 1839 he was appointed colonel of the 96th Regiment.

February 12.—The Committee for promoting the cultivation of flax in Glen-Urquhart reported that the experiment had been so far successful and satisfactory. The crop was good and abundant, and a flax mill had been erected. Some of the machinery, however, was of a temporary description, and the Committee suggested that a grant of £2000 or even £1000 from the Government would be desirable to promote flax cultivation in the Highlands.—At this time Scottish farmers were making inquiries about the possibilities in Ireland, and a Beaulieu man, Mr Sutherland, got a send-off from his neighbours, when he left to take up an arable farm in County Mayo.

February 19.—The Skye Committee, formed to assist voluntary emigration from the island, was taking active steps to promote their object. Upwards of four hundred families, or two thousand souls, had applied for aid to go abroad.

Ibid.—Mrs Johnston, a well-known authoress of the day, had received a pension of £100 for literary merit. Mrs Johnston was the first editor of the "Courier," and afterwards attained reputation as a writer of tales and editor of "Tait's Magazine." She was also the author of a book long famous, "Domestic Cookery by Mrs Margaret Dods of the Cleikum Inn."

Ibid.—Several deaths are recorded. John Lachlan Macgillivray of Dunmaglass, who had long resided in Inverness, was among them. He had left gifts for charitable purposes, and directed that a full year's rent should be remitted to his tenants. His heir was unknown at the time. Another who had passed away was Sir Alexander Mackenzie Downie, M.D., brother of the recently deceased minister of Contin, and physician in ordinary to the Duke of Cambridge. A third was Donald Gordon, post-runner between Grantown and Forres, who was a good Gaelic scholar, and had translated popular lyrics into that language. Some years before he had prepared for the press the songs and other productions of John Roy Stewart, along with traditionary sketches and biographi-



cal notices relating to Strathspey, but the manuscript had been lost by a firm of publishers.

Ibid.—Sir James Matheson of the Lews was entertained to a public dinner in Stornoway, in recognition of his services to the island and its people.

February 26.—Lord Palmerston had defeated Lord John Russell on the Militia Bill, and a Conservative Government came into office, with Lord Derby as Prime Minister and Mr Disraeli as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

March 4.—As a preliminary to the erection of the new bridge across the Ness, workmen had begun removing the large pile of buildings, known as Castle Tolmie, at the foot of Bridge Street. The appellation, it is stated, was derived from one of its occupants, some fifty years before, being named Tolmie. "The house had a more ancient and dignified history. It was erected in 1678, the same year in which the late stone bridge was commenced, and was one of the most important buildings in the town, both as respects use and ornament. It was long occupied by the Culoden family as their town residence. The original proprietor was probably a Fraser, for the windows were decorated with elaborate stone carvings representing the Fraser arms—the well-known *fraises*, or strawberries, the antique crowns, stags, and tree. The date and initials—'J. S.—H. F.—1678' were also engraven on the windows." The substantial stone chimney-piece in the principal room was inscribed—cut in strong, deep letters—as follows:—

Christ is my life and rent,  
His promise is my evident.

16  
J. S.

78  
H. F.

The inscription, as the editor states, is noticed by Captain Burt in his Letters written about 1730. In course of time Tolmie Castle fell to the condition of a third or fourth-rate inn. A suggestion was offered in 1822 for "the complete removal of the old buildings, called Castle Tolmie,



at the lower end of Bridge Street," but they stood for thirty years longer. "The house has now been levelled with the ground. The thickness of the walls occasioned some labour. When the principal chimney was knocked down, a Gaelic Bible, printed in London in 1690, was found on clearing away the rubbish. It is in good preservation. It had probably been placed in some hole or nook of the chimney, and afterwards accidentally covered up. No other relic was found."

March 11.—The obituary records the death of Mrs Gooden, an estimable lady, whose name had often been mentioned in connection with deeds of charity. "She died at her residence, Tavistock Square, London, on the 3rd inst., in the 72nd year of her age. Mrs Gooden was the only child of Alexander Chisholm, formerly of Chisholm, or The Chisholm. The entail of the estate was effected by her grandfather, and her father was the first heir under the entail. On his death, as he left no male issue, the estate passed to his youngest and only surviving half-brother. Mrs Gooden leaves a family. To her and to them the operation of the entail was certainly as hard a case as can well be imagined."

March 18 and 25.—In both issues are notices of the Life of Lord Jeffrey, written by Lord Cockburn. Preparations were going on for the expected dissolution of Parliament. Mr Hartley Kennedy, a former candidate for the Inverness Burghs, was entertained to a dinner in the Union Hotel. When the time came, however, he did not challenge the seat.

April 1.—The Land and Emigration Commissioners offered a free passage to Australia to four hundred families from Skye, provided a sum of 20s per head was raised for each person that they might not land penniless. As the four hundred families were held to include 2000 souls, a sum of £2000 was required. It is stated that the last crop of potatoes raised in the island was comparatively free from disease, but the cry of distress was as urgent as ever.

Ibid.—Summonses had been issued for the removal of forty sub-tenants in Coigach,



in the West of Ross, a step considered necessary because the chief tenants, a firm in Ullapool, had applied to be relieved of their lease. The people were reported to have deforced the sheriff-officer, and the chief officials of the county visited the district, going by boat from Ullapool. At the same time the sheriff-officer went in another boat belonging to Mr Scott, the factor. It turned out that on the first occasion there had been no actual deforcement, as the sheriff-officer had prudently left his warrants at home! The chief tenants agreed to withdraw the letter renouncing the lease, so that the issue of summonses became unnecessary. "The arrangement was instantly communicated in Gaelic and English to the crowd. Some believed and were satisfied; but others doubted and were distrustful; and while the gentlemen were taking some refreshment preparatory to their return, took the summonses (now useless) out of Mr Scott's boat and burned them; and some scores of women dragged the boat up the face of a hill for about two hundred yards from the water, one man sitting in it, the whole cheering them on, and placed it high and dry in front of the inn." The whole party had to return in a single boat.

*Ibid.*—Sir James Matheson of the Lews was formally installed as Provost of Dingwall.

April 8.—Mr Scott, factor for Coigach, gives his version of the affair reported above.

He says that the sub-tenants were in arrear to the tacksman to the amount of £800, and that the process was intended for a re-arrangement and distribution of the sub-tenants on another farm.

*Ibid.*—It is announced that Mr Duff of Muirtown had sold to Mr Alexander Matheson, M.P., the lands of his estate lying between the Caledonian Canal and the River Ness. The price was £25,000, or about twenty-seven years' purchase. "We look upon this purchase—while it is no doubt satisfactory to Mr Matheson as an investment—as of much importance to the town and its future improvement." So in the result it has proved.

*Ibid.*—While two men were removing a large stone on the farm of Millcraig, in the



parish of Invergordon, they found sixty silver coins in a cavity of the stone, which had been covered over with another thin stone. The coins were chiefly Spanish dollars of the reign of Philip IV., with a few English shillings ranging in date from 1620 to 1638. The stone, it was said, might at some time have formed part of a building.

*Ibid.*—The issue contains an account of the loss of the Birkenhead troopship, on 26th February, near Simon's Bay, South Africa, an event famous in British annals from the heroism of the soldiers. "The order and regularity on board during the whole time was extraordinary." The loss was nine officers and 349 men, besides many of the crew.

April 15.—At the Inverness Circuit Court there was a remarkable trial for murder. William Fraser, a man in the village of Inver, in Easter Ross, had died from arsenic poisoning, and the wife and son were charged with the crime. The evidence was conclusive, and the prisoners were found guilty, but a loophole was left for escape. Lord Ivory, who presided at the trial, adverted in course of his address to the reception of the packet of powder which Dr Maclagan had opened without breaking the seal. "It was described as a sealed packet, but was strictly an open packet with seals upon it. This point the Court had reserved for further consideration." The reservation led to the liberation of the prisoners, but not on account of the packet. The Clerk of Court had omitted to specify any particular date for taking up the case in the High Court, and the majority of the judges held this omission to be fatal. The prisoners were re-apprehended, but the Court finally decided that they could not be re-tried, as they had already "tholed an assize."

*Ibid.*—Major-General James Grant, C.B., died on the 5th inst at his residence in London. He entered the cavalry service in 1797, and served in India, in Sicily, and the Peninsular War. He had received medals for Toulouse and Waterloo. "The deceased latterly held the sinecure appointment of Governor of Scarborough Castle,



which now lapses into the Good Service Pension Fund."

April 22.—A book by Mr Angus B. Reach, "Claret and Olives," is reviewed. The volume gives an account of a ramble from the Garonne to the Rhone—from Bordeaux to Nimes—through the vineyards and olive-groves of the south of France.

April 29.—The practice of moor-burning had led to serious fires, owing to a spell of exceedingly dry weather. On the Farr estate in Strathnairn a considerable extent of wood was burned, the fire being stayed only by strenuous efforts. From a similar cause the woods of Cawdor, Lethen, and Darnaway were threatened, but large bands of men arrested the progress of the heather-burning.

May 6.—Alexander Mackay, a young man of great promise, died at sea on 15th April in the thirty-third year of his age. A son of Mr John Mackay, solicitor, Inverness, agent for the National Bank, he had early taken to journalism, for which he showed remarkable aptitude. Having been sent on newspaper duty to the United States, he published on his return a work in three volumes, entitled "The Western World," which went through several editions. While continuing active literary work, he entered the Middle Temple to study law. In 1850 the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, supported by the manufacturing interest, resolved to send a commissioner to India to report on the possibility of growing cotton, especially in the presidencies of Bombay and Madras. A sum of £3000 was subscribed, and Mr Mackay was entrusted with the mission. In course of his work, however, his health broke down, and he died on his way home, to the grief of all who knew him or who recognised his exceptional ability.

Ibid.—On April 28th Earl Grosvenor, eldest son of the Marquis of Westminster, was married to Lady Constance Leveson-Gower, daughter of the Duke of Sutherland—the former in his twenty-seventh, the latter in her eighteenth year.—Captain Macdonell, Aonach, Glenmoriston, an extensive sheep farmer, died on the 29th ult. It is stated that his family had lived on



the farm of Aonach for fully three hundred years.

May 13.—The Rev. Alexander Clark, a prominent Inverness clergyman, minister of the First Charge, died in Glasgow on the 8th inst. Having been for some time in feeble health, he went by steamer to Rothesay for rest and change; but suffering a relapse he was removed to Glasgow, where he died. Mr Clark was born in 1797, and educated at Inverness Academy and King's College, Aberdeen. He was an eloquent preacher, and took an active part in ecclesiastical and other public movements. The West Church was built through his exertions, and he occupied it till the end. His funeral (recorded in the next issue) was very largely attended, showing the respect in which he was held. A sketch of his life appears in a volume of biographies of Highland clergymen.

Ibid.—The estate of Lakefield in Glen-Urquhart, the property of Mr Ogilvy of Corrimony, was purchased by Mr Cameron, Charleston Cottage, Inverness. The purchase price was said to be £11,500.

Ibid.—The discovery of the Lobos Guano islands had for some time excited interest in the agricultural community. A meeting of farmers in the neighbourhood of Inverness was held to call for "free trade in guano," the Peruvian Government having imposed a high export duty on the article.—A vessel named the "Louisa" had been built and launched at Rosemarkie.—Notice is taken of a volume, "A Story with a Vengeance," by A. B. Reach and Shirley Brooks. It is described as "a trifle for the amusement of an hour, specially intended to beguile the tedium of a railway journey."—Plate-glass windows were beginning to be introduced in the shops in Inverness.

May 20 and 27.—Preparations for the expected general election, and further news on the guano question, are given in these issues. "Jungle life in Ceylon" is a communicated article, and an emigrant to Natal describes the Kaffirs and the dangers of residents. Sir Harry Smith had just been recalled—one of the unfortunate steps in the history of South Africa.

June 3 to 17.—The debate in the High Court



of Justiciary on the Ross-shire murder case, formerly recorded, is reported in the first of these issues, and the decision in the last. The final result, when the prisoners escaped because they had "tholed their assize," appears on July 15.—There had been great delay in proceeding with the new bridge over the Ness, but on 10th June it is announced that the contract had been obtained by Messrs Hutchins and Co., who had constructed the docks at Grimsby, and were then engaged on the Morayshire railway. On the 17th it is stated that the work had begun. A large emigration was going on from the North to Australia. The issue of the 10th records a death due, it was supposed, to "spontaneous combustion." A man returning with his cart from Nairn to Boghole, was observed to jump off his seat, and was shortly afterwards found with almost every particle of clothing burned off, and his head mutilated. He was a dissipated character, and it was supposed that the pipe he was smoking had lighted the fumes of alcohol in his body, and caused his death.

June 24.—The emigration movement, encouraged and regulated by Government, appeared to be increasing on a great scale. During the preceding three months considerably more than a thousand applications had been received at the Emigration Office at Inverness, but it did not follow that all who had received preliminary papers would take their passage. Australia was the great attraction, and large numbers were leaving unaided by the Government. The Department had notified to the officer at Inverness fifteen large first-class vessels in which approved emigrants from the Highlands could secure passage, seven to sail from London and eight from Birkenhead.

Ibid.—The Rev. Dr Macdonald, minister of the second charge in Inverness, was appointed by the Crown to the first charge, vacant by the death of Mr Clark.

July 1.—The estate of Kinloss, in the county of Elgin, was sold for £9000 to Captain Dunbar, Seapark.

July 8 to 29.—The Parliament of 1847 was



dissolved, and during the month the country was busy with elections. Mr Alexander Matheson of Ardross was re-elected without opposition for the Inverness Burghs (Mr Kennedy having declined a contest.) The Right Hon. Henry Baillie was also returned unopposed for the county of Inverness, and Mr G. S. Duff for the Elgin Burghs. The Marquis of Stafford replaced Sir David Dundas for the county of Sutherland. Major Cumming Bruce was returned unopposed for the counties of Elgin and Nairn. There was an active contest in Ross-shire between Sir James Matheson, Liberal, and Mr Ross of Cromarty, Conservative. Sir James was returned by a majority of 70, the figures being 288 to 218. In the Northern Burghs the fight was between two Liberals, Mr James Loch, the former member, and Mr Samuel Laing, who described himself as an Independent Liberal. Contrary to expectation, Mr Laing was elected by a majority of 31, or 233 to 202. There was also a contest in the county of Caithness between the former Liberal member, Mr Traill, and a Conservative, Mr J. G. Sinclair, son of Sir George Sinclair of Ulbster. Mr Traill was returned by 147 votes to 106, majority 41.

*Ibid.*—The issue of the 15th reports the Wool Market. Ewes showed an advance on the previous year of from 1s 6d to 2s 6d, and there was also an advance in lambs. The price of wedders showed little change. The demand for wool was not active. The clip was large, and many fine lots of Cheviot sold from 14s to 15s per stone.—Sir Edward Coffin was in Portree superintending operations on behalf of the Emigration Society. The previous week 250 Skye emigrants left for the Clyde, about 100 being young women. It was expected that in course of the season 2000 would be despatched.

*Ibid.*—On the 22nd is recorded the death of Captain Simon Fraser, compiler and publisher of "The Airs and Melodies peculiar to the Highlands of Scotland and the Isles." Captain Fraser was in his 78th year, having been born at Ardochy, near Fort-Augustus, in 1773. He subsequently



removed to Errogie in Stratherrick (an old wadset of the family), and became tenant of Knocky in the same district, where he conducted for many years extensive sheep and agricultural enterprises. As an officer in the Fraser Fencibles he served seven years in Ireland. His collection of Highland airs and melodies was published in 1816. It was pirated in America, and at home its publication cost so much that it never repaid his outlay.—The issue also records the death of Mr Donald Macdonald, A.M., formerly editor and proprietor of the "Inverness Journal," who was carried away by a pulmonary affection at the age of 39. He had considerable classic attainments, and was greatly interested in local affairs. His remains were interred in the churchyard of Daviot.

*Ibid.*—There is a strong letter from Mr Buchanan, emigration agent at Quebec, with reference to the emigrants (nearly 1680) sent out to Canada from Colonel Gordon's estates of South Uist and Barra. They had arrived, he says, "without the means of leaving the ship or of procuring a day's subsistence for their helpless families on landing." The Quebec Government had forwarded them to Hamilton at a cost of £674 10s. Of this sum the province realised £522 from an emigrant tax, and claimed the balance of £152 10s from Colonel Gordon. The writer speaks of the entirely different circumstances in which a party of 986 persons were sent out in the spring by Sir James Matheson from the island of Lewis. "Those emigrants were provided with a passage to this port, food, and clothing, and on arrival were provided with a week's rations and a free passage to their ultimate destination." They also came at a suitable time of the year to find employment, while the others arrived too late in the season.

August 5.—The last return for the General Election was from Orkney and Shetland, where there was a contest between the Hon. F. Dundas and Mr Inglis, the Lord Advocate. Mr Dundas was elected by a majority of 33, namely, 227 to 194. The result of the elections was variously estimated. According to the London corre-



spondent the Ministerial strength was rated at the utmost at 287, and the reliable Liberals at 329; doubtfuls, 38.

*Ibid.*—The ship *Georgina* sailed the previous week from Greenock, for Australia, with 300 emigrants on board, all comfortably provided for. The Rev. Dr Macleod, of St Columba, Glasgow, examined all the arrangements, and distributed a large supply of Gaelic Bibles, Testaments, and psalm-books. On the day of sailing he addressed them in Gaelic, "being the only language they understood." The scene is described as very affecting.

August 12.—The short line of railway from Elgin to Lossiemouth, six miles in length, was opened on the 10th inst. It was the only line at that time in the North of Scotland.—The shooting season promised to be particularly good, grouse being more plentiful than for the previous five years.

*Ibid.*—On the previous Saturday, the 7th, a severe thunderstorm was experienced in Inverness, comparable only to one which had occurred in August 1846. "For two long hours the flashes of forked and sheet lightning were followed almost instantaneously by long continued peals of thunder. Rain fell in torrents for nearly half-an-hour, and darkened the heavens so as to make the scene really terrifying. The Castle Commissioners, we think, should now be convinced of the necessity that exists for having the Wynd leading to the County Buildings causewayed, as on Saturday the rain carried from the pathway at least a couple of cartloads of gravel, which it deposited at the head of Bridge Street, in addition to probably as much more conveyed into the cellars of the Commercial Hotel." The hotel then occupied the corner beside the Town Hall. The storm caused some damage to property, but no lives were lost. On the previous day there was a similar thunderstorm on the north side of the Cromarty Firth.

August 19.—A dirk was picked up on Cul-loden Moor, within a few hundred yards of the graves of the clansmen. It was stained with rust and worn with exposure. —A paragraph from Campelltown, Ardersier, gives particulars of wages then paid



for harvest work. "The old prices of 3d per thrave for wheat and 2½d for oats and barley were given. Lads obtained from 32s to 45s, and women from 24s to 40s for the harvest. Men engaged for the harvest were promised from 33s 6d to 45s, with board and lodging. Wages by the week ranged from 6s 6d to 10s."—An amusing article gives an account of the "riding the marches" of the burgh of Tain.

August 26.—A petition had been forwarded from Inverness to the Rev. Dr Macleod, of Morven, asking him to accept the presentation to the second ministerial charge in Inverness. It bore upwards of 1300 signatures. Dr Macleod, however, replied in the negative, saying that he had no intention of separating from those who attended his ministrations in his native parish.

September 2.—A company was projected in Elgin for establishing steam communication between the north and south sides of the Moray Firth, with headquarters at Lossiemouth.—A public dinner was given at Dalmore, near Alness, to Mr Ross of Cromarty, the Conservative candidate for Ross-shire at the recent election.

September 9.—The original Free Church in Bank Street had been purchased by Roualyn Gordon Cumming for a museum. The purchase price was understood to be £300.—Mr Macqueen, rector of Fortrose Academy, died on the 29th ult., in his seventy-second year. He had been rector for thirty-eight years.—Father Gavazzi was making a tour of the North, and spoke in the English Free Church (Free High) in Inverness. He spoke in Italian, with dramatic emphasis, for three-quarters of an hour, and afterwards addressed the meeting in broken but intelligible English.

September 16.—The Northern Meeting, held the previous week, is reported as the most successful for many years. "The southern sportsmen and tourists now constitute the principal portion of the attendance, and this season they came forward in brilliant force. There were also many northern families, and the display of fashion and beauty in the Academy Park fully supported our metropolitan claims and character."



**Ibid.**—Lieutenant-General Sir John Rose of Holme, K.C.B., died on the 9th inst., aged 75. He had served with great distinction in the Indian Army, but had been retired for many years. A subsequent issue (September 30) gives an account of his gallant services, particularly at the siege of Delhi in 1804.

**Ibid.**—A bazaar was held in the Town Hall to raise funds for a proposed Industrial School in Inverness. The amount realised was £170.

**September 23.**—The death of the Duke of Wellington is recorded in this issue, with an article on his character and career. He is described as "the least ambitious of conquerors, but the greatest of subjects."

**Ibid.**—Arrangements had been completed for the extension of the Kessock embankment, which was in course of formation by the Mackintosh Trustees. The burgh member, Mr Matheson of Ardross, had relieved the Trustees of the undertaking on receiving a contribution from them of £250. The accepted estimate for the extension amounted to £900.—Sir George G. Munro of Poyntzfield died the previous week at Strathpeffer, aged 64, and Mr William Mackilligan, at Relugas, of which he was proprietor, aged 52.—Mr James Loch, formerly M.P. for the Northern Burghs, was entertained to dinner at Dingwall.

**September 30.**—A presentation to the second charge was laid on the table of the Inverness Presbytery in favour of Rev. A. F. Stewart, minister of Aberfoyle. Mr Stewart, however, wrote asking what was meant by the West Church, as he understood when he accepted the presentation that he was to be colleague to the Rev. Dr Macdonald. The Presbytery declined to enter on this question.

**October 7.**—The county meeting gave instructions to carry out improvements on the Castle Hill, according to a plan prepared by Mr Joseph Mitchell. "At the top of the Haugh Brae a lodge is to be erected and a gate placed at the spot. This is to form the principal entrance. A broad carriage approach is to be made, and a low boundary wall with iron railing erected, to break off the connection with



the houses in Castle Street. New slopes are to be formed, the top of the hill levelled and dressed up, and the sides trimmed and sown with ryegrass." The paragraph adds that these improvements, though not so extensive as they might be, would be acceptable, as the hill for some years had been in a most unseemly condition.

**Ibid.**—Four hundred emigrants passed through Glasgow for Birkenhead, to embark for Australia. The greater portion were from Skye, but a group of eight families, numbering 36 souls, were from St Kilda, and were noted as the first emigrants from that island. We are told that neither the cholera nor the potato blight had ever effected a landing on St Kilda. The Skye correspondent describes the breaking up of what was called the Perth settlement in North Uist, on which he was told £2300 had been uselessly spent. The greater number of the people had agreed to emigrate, and only the weaker, who were rejected by the emigration agent, were left behind "to struggle on as they best can themselves, or be a burden upon others."

**Ibid.**—The issue contains the story of a marriage litigation connected with Inverness, and gathered from law papers. The circumstances date from 1730.

**October 14.**—The Rev. A. F. Stewart, Aberfoyle, accepted the presentation to the second charge of the parish of Inverness. The Presbytery moderated in a call to the Rev. John Fraser, A.M., to the church of Petty. The new Free Church at Croy was nearly completed.

**Ibid.**—A rare fish recently cast ashore at Cromarty proved to be the "*Regalecus Glesne*," of Ascanius, a fish so little known that British naturalists had not then fixed a name for it. Of three well-authenticated instances in which it had been met with in British waters, two had occurred in the Moray Firth. It was a ground fish, belonging to the family of ribband fishes, so named from their flat form. Their abode is at the bottom of the sea, and they rarely rise to the surface. The Cromarty speci-



men was  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and 13 inches deep (?broad), its greatest thickness being three inches. The head had a beautiful crest or comb of movable bristles.

**Ibid.**—On the death of the late proprietor of Dunmaglass, John Lachlan Macgillivray, there was much speculation as to the succession to the estates. It now appeared that an uncle, Colonel John Macgillivray, had advanced money to his brother and nephew, exceeding the then value of the estates; that in consequence he had executed deeds of entail, and purchased the estate of Aberchalder, in Stratherrick, from his cousin, Farquhar Macgillivray of Dalcrombie, to whom he destined the succession. "The representative of Dalcrombie is the Hon. John Macgillivray, of the county of Glengarry, Canada West, now with his family residing in Inverness. This gentleman was on Tuesday last served heir male of provision in special, and heir in general to his father, and consequently the heir male of the tutor of Dunmaglass, his great-grandfather. This service gives him instant possession of the estate of Aberchalder; establishes his representation to the next male heir of the Dunmaglass to whom his great-grandfather was tutor; and we should think gives him every chance to succeed to all those parts of the estates destined to heirs male, and an undoubted right to the chieftainship of his clan."

**Ibid.**—The works at the new Suspension Bridge at Inverness were stopped on account of the failure of the contractors, Messrs Thomas Hutchings & Co. The firm held contracts for extensive undertakings in Holland, by which in conjunction with other firms, about 35,000 acres of land were to be reclaimed from the sea, the capital embarked reaching about £500,000.

**Ibid.**—The Rev. Mr Shepherd, Kingussie, had agreed to accept a call to the second charge in the Free Church at Elgin. He had been 26 years minister in Kingussie.

**October 28.**—The Rev. Mr Stewart, who had come to Inverness to preach his trial sermons for the second charge, conducted service in the High Church, but announced



that he had divested himself of the character of presentee. He had done this after acquiring full information respecting the congregations connected with the Established Church in the parish. The difficulty appears to have arisen from a debt on the West Church.

*Ibid.*—The bog of Arcan, formed by the rivers Conon and Orrin, had been drained and embanked. The amount of land made available for use was 350 acres.

November 4.—An account is given of the improvements at Ardross effected by Mr Matheson, M.P. Trenching, fencing, and draining had been carried out on an extensive scale, no less than 1200 acres having been reclaimed. The new plantations extended to 2600 acres, their enclosures measuring nearly thirty-six miles. The range of altitude in planting was from 200 to 600 feet above sea level. Sixteen miles of roads and twelve miles of walks had also been constructed.

*Ibid.*—St Mary's Isle, Loch-Maree, has a consecrated well, which was supposed to be efficacious for the cure of the insane, when followed by other ceremonies. This issue records that an idiot girl was taken to the island, obliged to drink of the well, then ducked in it, and subsequently towed round the island after the boat, and bathed in the loch after midnight. The unfortunate result was that the poor imbecile girl became a raving maniac.

November 11.—The new Free Church (now United Free High) was opened on the previous Sunday. There were three services. The morning service was conducted by the Rev. Dr Duff, the Indian missionary; the afternoon service by the pastor of the church, the Rev. Joseph Thorburn; and the evening service by the Rev. John Kennedy, of Dingwall. The collections amounted to £215 19s 4d.

*Ibid.*—Mr James Sutherland, who had been at a former time Provost of Inverness, was again elected to fill the office.

November 18.—The first session of the new Parliament was opened the previous week by the Queen, in person. Almost simultaneously the re-establishment of the Empire in France was proposed and sanc-



tioned, and only awaited the ratification of a plebiscite, which was subsequently given. November 25.—The memorable funeral of the Duke of Wellington, "one of the most magnificent and solemn pageants recorded in history," is described on this date. The funeral took place the previous week.

*Ibid.*—The sum of £100,000 had been borrowed and expended in the county of Ross during the previous five years, under the Drainage Act. This explained how labour had been well employed, and wages had improved.

December 2.—The editor devotes a column to his friend and fellow-journalist, Mr M'Diarmid, of Dumfries, who had died a fortnight before, during the absence of Mr Carruthers in London. Mr M'Diarmid had conducted the "*Dumfries Courier*" with great distinction for thirty-five years. He was the friend and afterwards the executor of Mrs Burns, the widow of the poet, and a journalist of energy, skill, and literary taste.

December 9.—Mr Disraeli, now Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons, introduced the Budget of the new Government, which he took five hours and a quarter to expound. Before the end of the year the Budget was rejected, and the Government resigned. It was during the debates that Mr Disraeli made a famous attack on the leading Whigs, and that Mr Gladstone replied in a speech which raised him to a foremost place in the House of Commons.

*Ibid.*—A correspondent suggests the erection of a memorial over the grave of Flora MacDonald, in the churchyard of Kilmuir, in Skye. A good many years, however, had to pass before the idea was brought to accomplishment. The paragraph mentions that some years before a grandson of Flora had sent from England a marble slab to mark the spot, but it was broken ere it reached Skye, and there was in 1852 no trace of it.—A pre-historic grave was found on the farm of Broomhill of Ord on the Allangrange estate. The skeleton, which lay in a stone coffin, crumbled to dust on being handled.

*Ibid.*—At a meeting of the shareholders of



the Great North of Scotland Railway Company, the chairman, Sir James Elphinstone, announced that they had commenced the work of construction a few days before. He hoped that they would soon be able to open the portion of the line between Inverurie and Kittybrewster.

December 16.—The London correspondent comments on a new scheme proposed at Nairn for constructing a breakwater. He says that "ever since he could remember anything anent this snug burgh, seaport, and bathing place, the natives therein have been devising all manner of ingenious schemes to effect an amicable amalgamation between their river and their sea." The amalgamation was afterwards accomplished, but difficulties still arise.

Ibid.—A report was made to a medical journal by Dr Grigor, Nairn, on the man who had died on his way to Darnaway, from some species of combustion. The man was a notorious drinker, and it was popularly supposed that he had been smoking, and had thus lighted the funes of alcohol in his body. Dr Grigor, however, found no evidence that the man's pipe was kindled. When he was last seen it was in his hand, but he said it was not going, and he was never known to carry lucifers. Dr Grigor was therefore induced to regard the case as one of "progressive igneous decomposition, commencing during life, without the application or approach of any hot or burning body." He acknowledges that such a condition has been regarded by many as almost fabulous, but he refers to various authorities on the subject to show that the doctrine could not be wholly set aside.

December 23.—The final debate on the Budget is given. The figures in the division were 305 against the Government resolution, and 286 in favour, giving an adverse majority of 19. On the resignation of Lord Derby's Government, Lord Aberdeen was called upon to form an administration.

Ibid.—"Miss Caroline Herschel, eldest daughter of Sir John Herschel, Bart., whose marriage with the Hon. Colonel Gordon, Equerry to Prince Albert, appeared in our last week's publication, is grand-



daughter of the late Rev. Dr Alex. Stewart, of Moulin and Dingwall, and great-grand-daughter of Rev. Charles Calder, of Ferintosh."

*Ibid.*—A paragraph from the "Glasgow Herald" relates to the emigration of the Sollas crofters forming the "Perth Settlement." Credit is given to Sheriff Fraser, Portree, for his exertions, and the paragraph adds—"The Sheriff soon had them [the crofters] enrolled as emigrants for Australia; the Emigration Commissioners objected to young men above eighteen being allowed to go single, nor yet, for some reasons we do not know, would they allow the single young women from Sollas to marry. In such trying circumstances, and with little time to spare, it was hard work for these 80 or 100 young men to find suitable wives in South Uist, but the task was accomplished, to the great mortification of the young damsels, who saw their sweet-hearts debarred by the force of circumstances from binding the matrimonial tie with their first loves. But we hope, as the young girls are all emigrating under the guardianship of their parents, that they will be suitably and happily mated at the diggings. The whole settlement was conveyed by the Celt steamer from Uist to Campbelltown last week—450 in all. The Celt has left Campbelltown for a second batch from Skye, amounting to 400 more. The Government vessel is fitted to carry 900 in all."

December 30.—Lord Aberdeen had formed his Government. Lord John Russell was Foreign Secretary and Leader of the House of Commons. Lord Palmerston was Home Secretary; and Mr Gladstone Chancellor of the Exchequer. The issue contains further information about the emigration from the Hebrides. In the last and the present issue there are articles on agriculture, which bear the impress of Mr Kenneth Murray, who was for many years a brilliant contributor.



## No. XII.

The year 1853 opened with the new Government under the Earl of Aberdeen, which replaced the short-lived administration of Lord Derby and Mr Disraeli. Lord Aberdeen's Government was really a coalition, including such statesmen as Lord John Russell, Lord Palmerston, and Sir James Graham, and representatives of a younger generation like Mr Gladstone, the Duke of Argyll, and Earl Granville. The Earl of Clarendon was Foreign Secretary. Mr Gladstone made his first great mark as a financier, by a Budget which lowered interest by changes in stocks, readjusted the income-tax and legacy duties, and reduced taxes on 133 articles. Mr Gladstone extended the income-tax from incomes of £150 to those of £100 a year, and sketched a scheme for getting rid of the tax in 1860—a hope, however, which was not realised. The Budget brought the finances of the country into a stable condition, and was generally acceptable.

During the year a dispute arose between Russia and Turkey, which finally resulted in the Crimean war. In the first instance the dispute was between the Greek and Latin Churches regarding the holy places in Palestine. This question was solved, but in course of it the Emperor Nicolas of Russia claimed a protectorate over the Greek Christians in Turkey, which claim the Porte resisted. The Emperor sent as Ambassador to Constantinople Prince Menschikoff, a man of dictatorial temperament who embittered the quarrel. The Turkish side was supported by the British Ambassador, Sir Stratford Canning, who was raised to the peerage as Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. A Congress of the Powers held at Vienna failed to bring the parties to terms. The British and French Governments ordered their fleets to Besika Bay, at the mouth of the Dardanelles, to guard against a sudden attack on Constantinople. On 2nd July the Russians



crossed the Pruth, invading the Turkish principalities, but even then war was not declared. The next step, however, was an attack by a Russian naval force on a squadron of Turkish ships at Sinope, when the latter were destroyed. The news of this attack aroused passionate indignation throughout Europe. Both the British and French Governments were anxious to avoid war, but when the year closed all the omens pointed to the conflict which was soon to break out.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1853.

January 6.—"A fine golden eagle, taken in Strathglass, is at present in this town, with a view to its being sent to Paris as a present to the Emperor of France. The gentleman who sends it is, we believe, acquainted with Louis Napoleon, and the Emperor must acknowledge that this noble bird from our mountains is a very different looking creature from the miserable dragged eagle he took with him to Boulogne! A number of rabbits have been sent as food for the eagle during its journey."

Ibid.—The Hercules frigate, Captain Baynton, sailed from Campbelltown Loch on Sunday, 26th ult., with about 730 emigrants for Australia. The passengers were mostly from the islands of Skye, Harris, and Uist.

January 13.—The death is announced of Mr Roderick Reach, who had been for nearly ten years London correspondent of the "Courier." Mr Reach was a native of Tain, and, after being educated at the Academy there, studied for the law. He then entered on an engagement in the West Indies, and resided for five or six years at Berbice, but on his health giving way he returned to this country, and became a solicitor and accountant in Inverness. "For many years the deceased was one of our most respected, useful, and popular citizens. His talents and accomplishments rendered his society much coveted, and his hospitable table was open to men of all sects and parties, and to



vast numbers of strangers in their summer visits to the Highlands. In 1843 Mr Reach removed to London. He kindly consented to act as London correspondent for this paper (of which he was one of the original proprietors), and we need not say how much his admirable powers of observation and description—his wide range of reading and knowledge of the world—and his lively, discursive, yet forcible style, contributed to the delight and instruction of the public. There were few subjects, literary or scientific, in which he did not take some interest, and he had a singular felicity in popularising whatever he touched upon.

His heart beat to every tender and generous impulse, and amidst the crowd of London he never ceased to think, to talk, and to write of his native north." Mr Reach was about sixty-six years of age. For some months before his death he had been compelled, by declining health, to give up writing, and his weekly task had devolved on his son, Mr Angus B. Reach.

*Ibid.*—The Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society contained a report of the improvements effected on the waste land of Urchil, forming part of Culloden Moor, and now included in the farm of Leanach. The paper was written by the tenant, Mr John Rose, "an enterprising, intelligent, and successful agriculturist," who had obtained the medium gold medal of the society. Mr Rose became tenant of Urchil (called Urchills in the notice) in 1840, under an improving or thirty-one years lease. When he took possession, the farm consisted of 256 acres 3 roods and 32 poles of arable land, and 248 acres 8 roods and 18 poles of pasture land—giving a total of 505 acres and 10 poles. All the land at the time was in a wretched condition, and Mr Rose set himself to improve and reclaim. He built fences, constructed upwards of thirty-six miles of drains, and erected a steading, at a cost of £800. The abstract of cost and returns showed that he had expended £4489, and had realised from produce £2215. A large part of the lease was, of course, still to run. The proprietor, Mr Forbes of Culloden, in appreciation of Mr Rose's ex-



ertions, had presented him with a handsome silver salver, suitably inscribed. Mr Rose was also tenant of the farm of Kirkton, and of other farms in the neighbourhood of Inverness.

*Ibid.*—The Rev. Alexander Campbell, parish minister of Croy, died a few days before, at the age of 72. In 1820 Mr Campbell was ordained minister of Dores, and was translated to Croy in 1823. "Many will remember the circumstances attending Mr Campbell's acceptance of this new office. A strong feeling had been raised against him in the parish, and it was found necessary to resort to the obnoxious alternative of employing the military to enforce the induction. Happily, Mr Campbell survived the last trace of ill-feeling which naturally arose among the parishioners through this violent step, and no pastor could have lived on better terms with his flock than did this lamented gentleman for many years in the parish of Croy."

*Ibid.*—A paragraph gives an account of an old crofter, Paul Macdonald, aged 98, who had been for eighty years tenant of the small steadings of Auldvounie, Curdlas, situated in Glen-Goullie, on the Ballindalloch estate, seven miles from any other dwelling. Paul was styled the "King of Curdlas." He remembered his father lamenting the fate of the Highlanders at Culloden, and he had himself been engaged in many local frays. When George Fourth visited Edinburgh, Paul was sent by the Duke of Gordon to take part in the procession. "Every article in the house of Auldvounie is of the most primitive description, and the whole was formed and fashioned by the gudeman himself. Half-a-century ago he planted on his croft a sapling of mountain ash, which a few years since he cut down, and with a clasp knife and dirk he contrived to make a couple of chairs and a bedstead, which now decorate his humble dwelling. With the same tools he fashioned the cas-chrom, or plough, with which he tills his croft. It may be added that the sole horse possessed by the old man is thirty-six years of age."—The same issue contains a letter from the Rev. Alexander Macgregor, then minister of the



Gaelic Church, Edinburgh, giving a sketch of the life of Flora Macdonald. Many years afterwards, when minister of the West Church, Inverness, he published a life of Flora.

January 13 and 20.—The death is announced in Canada West of Mr John Fraser, formerly a merchant in Inverness, and Provost of the burgh from 1834 to 1836. In 1837 he went to Canada as Chief Commissioner of the British American Land Company, and resided at Sherbooke, Canada East. In 1844 he took up his residence in London, Canada West, as agent of the Bank of Montreal. "In all the relations of life he won the admiration and respect of his fellow citizens; to every movement for the promotion of morals, sobriety, and education, he proved himself an ardent friend." Mr Fraser was killed at the age of fifty-seven by being thrown from his carriage. He was educated at the Inverness Royal Academy and King's College, Aberdeen, where he graduated in 1812, but subsequently took up his father's business in Inverness. Mr Fraser was the father of the late Rev. Dr Donald Fraser, of Inverness and Marylebone.

Ibid.—The right of patronage to the second charge of Inverness had now devolved on the Presbytery, which issued a presentation in favour of the Rev. John Macewen, of Dyke.—Proposals were going on for the establishment of a cotton or new woollen manufactory in Inverness.

January 20.—Letters appear from Australia giving an account of the condition of the country and the rush for the gold-diggings. A writer from Melbourne, who had taken out a cargo of goods there, tells his father that the charges for warehouse accommodation were enormous. "A place not bigger than your stable can readily bring £600 a year. A wretched storehouse, not better than a barn, cannot be procured under £1500 a year, paid in advance. Tradesmen get £1 a day, but lodging and high living swamp everything." In a previous letter the London correspondent says that gold was now being realised at the rate of twenty millions per annum in our own colonies, to say nothing of California.



January 27.—The Emperor Napoleon had announced his engagement to Eugenie de Montijo, Countess of Teba, and notice was taken of her Scottish ancestry through the Kirkpatricks. The marriage is recorded in the following issue.

Ibid.—The death is announced of Dr Simon Mackintosh, minister of the East Church, Aberdeen. He was a native of Ardersier, and had been for a short time minister of the Third Charge, Inverness. He had also been one of the presentees to the parish of Daviot while the controversy was going on in that parish before the Disruption. Dr Mackintosh was a man of classical attainments, and a Gaelic scholar. He was scarcely forty years of age.—A memorial signed by nearly a thousand members, was presented to the Rev. Mr Macewen, Dyke, asking him to accept the presentation to the West Church in Inverness. A counter petition was got up in Dyke asking him to stay in the parish.—A Ragged School was opened in Inverness. It was situated in a school-house in Tanner's Lane, off Tomnahurich Street, where Mr Mackay, who was appointed teacher, had previously instructed 170 children in the elements of education.

Ibid.—Mr Robert Harper, B.A., of Cambridge, who had been for a time Rector of the Inverness Academy, accepted the appointment of second master of the Grammar School of Dudley, in Worcestershire. He was succeeded as Rector of the Academy by Mr Scott, classical master, who had been for nearly thirty years connected with the institution.—The project of a railway between Inverness and Perth was again under discussion.—The *Hercules*, with 916 emigrants on board, left Rothesay for Australia on Sunday week.

February 3.—Miss Jane Mackenzie of Kilcoy, only daughter of the late Sir Colin Mackenzie of Kilcoy, was married on the 27th ult. to Major Wardlaw, son of Lieutenant-General Wardlaw. The marriage took place at Belmaduthy House, and there were rejoicings in the Black Isle.—Mr James Milne, shipowner, at Findhorn, a man of influence in Morayshire, died on the 22nd ult., at the age of fifty-five. One



of his daughters became the wife of Sir Joseph Prestwick, an eminent geologist, and was the author of her husband's biography and other books.

February 10.—Rev. Mr Macewen, Dyke, declined the presentation to the second charge in Inverness. The patron then offered the appointment to the Rev. Ewen Mackenzie, Kirkhill, holding that the patronage had not devolved on the Presbytery, as the Rev. Mr Stewart, Aberfoyle, had accepted the presentation, although he had afterwards resigned.

Ibid.—Mr John Paterson, Skinnet, an extensive sheep farmer in Caithness and Sutherland, died on the 27th ult. A native of the Borders, he came early to Caithness, and gradually rose to wealth and influence. "For nearly half a century Mr Paterson had been the very life and spirit of the two great markets, Inverness and Falkirk, of the former of which he might be said to be the chief promoter."

February 17.—Mr A. Hill Rennie of Ballliesk died the previous week. He was a member of Town Council, and had been for twenty-five years a citizen of Inverness, conducting large business transactions, apparently in the timber trade.

Ibid.—The construction of the new bridge was at a standstill. "Of the exact cause of the state of matters we are not aware; but it is known that contracts for the resumption of the works have of late been all but completed with more than one party, and then abandoned." There was a heavy snowstorm in the Highlands, particularly severe in the neighbourhood of Inverness. In the streets snow lay to the depth of two feet, and the roads were impassable.

February 24.—The snowstorm continued, and the "*Courier*" for the second week in succession was obliged to publish without its London letter.—The Ness Islands were still without bridges, which had been carried away in the flood of 1849, but a committee of young men had now taken the matter up, and were canvassing for support. A sum of £140 had been subscribed.—A contract for the new Suspension Bridge had at length been entered into with Mr



Hendrie, Inverness, and eighty men were at work.

March 3.—Rev. Mr Mackenzie, Kirkhill, declined to proceed under the presentation issued in his favour to the second charge of the parish of Inverness. The Procurator of the Church had given his opinion that the right of presentation had fallen to the Presbytery, seeing that Mr Stewart had declined, and had not vacated the charge of Aberfoyle.

Ibid.—The steeple on the English Free Church, Inverness (United Free High), would not have been erected except for the liberality of Mr Duncan Forbes of Leanach, and his brother, Mr Forbes of Culloden. The former had made himself responsible to the committee for the cost of the steeple, and now, on behalf of himself and his brother, handed over £360 to the building fund.

Ibid.—The workmen at the new bridge came upon the foundation beam of the timber bridge which spanned the Ness before the erection of the stone bridge in 1684. The beam was a splendid block of oak wood, and lay directly beneath the abutment of the old bridge. "Immediately beneath the beam were discovered about a dozen very curious pins for fastening dresses, and a silver ring of peculiar construction and workmanship. The pins are composed of copper and zinc—copper greatly predominating—and are of a bright golden colour; they vary in length from four to about seven inches; there are several varieties of form, all of them elegant and chaste in style. The pins are still sharp and delicately pointed, and they have suffered little from old age." An antiquary pronounced the pins to be about 500 years old, but the ring was quite unique. "It bears the appearance of hoary old age."

March 10.—The Duchess-Dowager of Bedford, a daughter of Jane, Duchess of Gordon, died at Nice on the 23rd ult. For twenty-three years she had resided for several months annually at the Doune of Rothiemurchus, not far from the spot where her mother's remains repose. "There her hospitality was shared with many of the men most distinguished in the politi-



cal world. Noblemen and gentlemen delighted to retire from the laborious duties or frivolous gaieties of London life to this secluded retreat, to enjoy the lovely scenery, the manly sports, and the cheerful home where the Duchess presided."

Ibid.—Out of a leet of five clergymen, the Presbytery resolved to present the Rev. Alexander Macgregor, of the Gaelic Church, Edinburgh, to the second charge of the parish of Inverness. The presentation was accepted, and thus began a long period of service.—The snowstorm had disappeared, after lasting with great severity for four weeks. It was noted that communication had been better maintained through the Badenoch district than on the road between Inverness and Aberdeen. In both districts, however, in the worst places, the mails had been carried by men on foot. For a fortnight or more no vehicles could run.

March 17.—Mr Roderick Macleod of Cadboll, Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Cromarty, who had long been in delicate health, died at Invergordon Castle on the 13th inst., aged 66. "He was a man of sterling integrity, liberality of sentiment, and kindness of heart." A member of the Scottish bar, Mr Macleod sat in Parliament for some time as member for Sutherland, and gave his support to the Reform Bill of 1832. From 1837 till 1840 he represented the Inverness district of burghs.

Ibid.—Three lithographed views of Inverness, taken by Mr C. T. Greenwood, were published by Mr Keith, bookseller, here. "The lithographs are drawn with accuracy and taste on tinted paper, and do more justice to our beautiful little town than any previous engravings. Their size is about 18 inches by 12. A prominent feature in one of the sketches is the iron suspension bridge now being erected."—A pre-historic grave, consisting of stone slabs enclosing a human skeleton and an urn, was found on the farm of Cuthbertown, at Easter Delnies. The skeleton was bent, the urn beautifully carved, yellow outside, and black inside. It is described as "of stonework," but was more probably of pottery,



as the fragments crumbled to the touch. About eight years before two similar coffins, containing skeletons and urns, were found within a few yards of the same place.

**Ibid.**—James Fotheringham, the oldest Freemason in Inverness, and the founder of the Lodge of Oddfellows, died on the 6th inst., at the age of 92. He had been janitor for the Bank of Scotland, and was respected by all classes as a warm-hearted and upright man.

**March 24.**—The Glen-Tilt right-of-way case had come to an end. The Lord Ordinary found "that there is a public road leading from Castleton of Braemar, in the county of Aberdeen, through the upper part of the valley of the Dee, and thence in a southerly direction through the Glen of Tilt, and the property of the defender, the Duke of Atholl, to Blair-Atholl, in the county of Perth." The Duke might have carried the case to the House of Lords, but refrained, or, as the editor puts it, "wisely abandoned his attempt to shut out the public from Glen-Tilt."

**Ibid.**—A meeting was held at Stafford House, attended by about forty ladies, to promote an address from the women of Great Britain and Ireland to the women of the United States, on the subject of slavery. A report was read by the Duchess of Sutherland, and it was stated that the signatures to the address numbered 562,848, bound in twenty-six large folio volumes. It was resolved to send the address to Mrs Beecher Stowe, whose work, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," had attained a vast circulation in this country.

**April 7.**—On the 1st inst. the Aberdeen Steam Navigation Company's steamer, the Duke of Sutherland, with goods and passengers from London, was wrecked close to the pier of Aberdeen, and out of a living freight of fifty passengers and crew, sixteen were drowned. There was at the time a heavy sea running on the bar, and a freshet on the River Dee. Just as the steamer was crossing the bar the current threw her head towards the point of the pier, and when the captain, to escape striking, reversed engines, the vessel was caught in a heavy sea, and driven right on



the rocks by the breakwater. A series of mishaps occurred to the boats and the rocket apparatus, and the above-mentioned sixteen persons perished within a stone's cast of safety. The master, Captain Howling, in endeavouring to warp a line, lost his balance, and, falling into the sea, was drowned.

*Ibid.*—The Highland dress of a Scottish nobleman, Lord Orkney, attracted great attention at a ball given by the Emperor and Empress of the French, in Paris. He is described as wearing "the knife at the garter, the hunting horn, the plaid, the kilt, the bonnet, the sporran, all complete as Roderick Dhu or Fergus Macivor." We are also told that "he drew more eyes upon him than even the Duke of Brunswick, who was covered with diamonds."

April 14.—The scheme of a railway between Inverness and Perth was revived, and steps were taken for a fresh survey of such parts as presented special difficulty.—From correspondence between Mr Rainy of Raasay and Sir Charles Trevelyan it appeared that the Raasay emigrants, who went to Australia the previous year, were well satisfied, and were urgent for friends and acquaintances to join them. The Emigration Commissioners announced that the continued ability of the society to give assistance would depend "upon the prompt payment of the advances we have made to those who have already emigrated." The ship *Hercules*, carrying emigrants from Skye, had been detained at Queenstown owing to an outbreak of smallpox.

April 24.—Mrs Beecher Stowe, the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," had arrived at Liverpool, and was presented with a purse containing £130 from the ladies of that city. The author of "Sam Slick" arrived by the same vessel.

*Ibid.*—A party of students from Inverness, visiting Culloden Moor, turned up a stone below the surface of the ground where the graves were most numerous, and found an octagon crystal bottle, well corked, and containing the following paper:—"This was left by Hugh and John Lee, from Manchester, who, on 18th March 1837, came to see the field on which some



of their forefathers fell. They hope that no true Scotchman will destroy this." The youths replaced the bottle.

April 28.—Mr Gladstone's famous Budget is dealt with. His speech occupied five hours. Many changes were made, but only two need be noted here. One was the reduction of the advertisement duty to sixpence, which the editor characterises as a "halting, probably a reluctant, step." The most important change in the stamp-duties was that which laid the legacy tax on real as well as on personal property. "It has been a long-standing grievance that a professional man's, or tradesman's, small savings on life-assurance, when passed to his family, were taxed by the State, while landed estates passed from generation to generation Scot-free."

Ibid.—The Committee of Management of the Inverness West Church presented a petition to the Synod of Moray asking that Court to recommend to the General Assembly to assist, by a collection throughout the Church or otherwise, in extricating the West Church and its late incumbent's family (the family of Mr Clark) from the difficulties which embarrassed them. It appears that Mr Clark had devoted about £2000 to the building of the church, besides a sum of £700, of which repayment had been guaranteed by the Presbytery of Inverness. The Synod agreed to transmit the petition.

May 5.—At the Inverness County meeting, on the motion of Mr Mackintosh of Raigmore, a resolution was adopted recommending to favourable consideration the scheme for a railway between Inverness and Perth.

Ibid.—Mr John Macdougall, long a farmer at Clephanton, on the estate of Kilravock, died at the age of ninety-three. He was the father of Charles Macdougall, advocate, whose name occurs at an earlier date, and whose premature death in the West Indies was greatly lamented. The father was a native of Breadalbane, but settled early in the north, and was greatly respected.

May 12.—The illness of the London correspondent, Mr Angus B. Reach, is men-



tioned. His doctor had interdicted him from writing. Afterwards, as we know, the late Shirley Brooks acted in his place.—A paragraph records the death of Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Macleod, who entered the Madras Army nearly sixty years before, and served under the Duke of Wellington in the Mahratta campaign.

May 19.—The London correspondent says:—

"The streets have been for months past, and are now, cut to pieces with trenches for laying down the electric telegraph. London underground will soon be one maze of stretching wires and one gleam of flashing messages. All the public offices are now electrically connected with each other; all the police offices, a great many of the mercantile houses with the railway lines, most of the clubs with the House and the Royal Italian Opera, with the House and the central termini. A new line has been successfully laid down across the open part of the Channel to Ostend, and it is expected that another attempt will be made between Holyhead and Kingston, or a shorter course between Port-Patrick and Donaghadee." The year 1837 is generally assigned for the birth of the electric telegraph, but its use took time to develop.

Ibid.—The Rev. Alexander Macgregor was inducted to the West Church, Inverness. The same issue records that Mr Macgregor had presented to the Society of Antiquaries a bronze celt and a large stone patera, found deeply embedded in a moss in the parish of Kilmuir, Skye.—The Rev. Mr Macrae of the Free Church, Braemar, had accepted a call to Knockbain.—Near Fort-Augustus, "during the process of blasting a large stone of several tons' weight," a cavity was discovered in the centre of it, two feet long, eighteen inches wide, and twelve inches deep. "In this cavity were found several human bones, a bottle which would hold about a Scotch pint, and what appear to be the remains of a Highland dirk. The bottle is in three pieces, perhaps broken by the explosion. The blaster noticed a seam or fissure in the stone before blasting it."

May 26.—The dispute between Russia and Turkey was coming to a crisis. Prince



Menschikoff had demanded a final decision from the Sultan, and on both sides warlike preparations were going on. "Will the Czar venture to precipitate hostilities in the face of England and France? We are pledged to support the independence of Turkey, and a British fleet has sailed for the Mediterranean. The French Ambassador is in cordial co-operation with Lord Stratford, and the Sultan thus backed is strong in his right. The Emperor of Russia is not likely, we repeat, to encounter such formidable opponents, and we consequently anticipate that some unimportant concessions will be made and peace preserved." Unhappily these anticipations were not realised.

*Ibid.*—A lithograph sketch had been prepared by Mr Batchen, architect, of the new buildings in Bridge Street to be erected by the Town Council in place of the old Court-House, etc. "The only objection to the scheme, if it proves a paying one, which can possibly be urged, is strongly brought out by Mr Batchen's lithograph—namely, the absurdity of attaching a steeple to a row of drapers' or grocers' shops. It seems droll enough to raise a lofty steeple on a jail, but by the new arrangement, the only conceivable purpose of our elegant spire will be to support the weather-cock and amuse the jackdaws."

June 2.—At the General Assembly of the Established Church a committee was appointed to assist in raising funds to liquidate the debt on the Inverness West Church. The Assembly considered the case of a parish schoolmaster at Kiltearn, who had absented himself from the parish church, had occasionally attended the Free Church, and had also had a child baptised by the Free Church minister. The schoolmaster had sent in his resignation to the Presbytery, but there was only one minister present when it came up, and he had subsequently withdrawn it. He was now ready to sign the formula and the Confession, and even to have his child re-baptised by the parish minister. Dr Cook advised the Assembly that there was no necessity for a reference, and that the Presbytery had full right and control.—The issue con-



tains long letters from Highland emigrants to Australia, all satisfied and cheerful.

June 9.—A return is given of the operations of the Highland and Island Emigration Society during the year 1852, being the first year of its existence. The total number of emigrants, adults, and children came to 2605, distributed as follows:—To New South Wales, 522; Victoria, 1633; South Australia, 411; Van Diemen's Land, 39. The details give 380 married couples, 417 single men, 490 single women, 497 boys under fourteen, and 442 girls. There was a surplus of males among the children under 14, and a surplus of females above that age.

Ibid.—Died at Helmsdale, on the 2nd inst., William Macbeth, better known as the blind piper. "Although blind from his infancy, he could make all the instruments belonging to the bagpipes, besides all the tools required by a farmer for cultivating the soil. He had travelled Scotland, the greater part of London, and most of the thoroughfares of the principal towns in England, by aid of a boy who led him."

June 16.—The late Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Gairloch had recently come of age, and rejoicings were held on the Gairloch estates.

June 23.—The laird of Inshes proposed to feu part of his ground at Millburn.

June 30.—A movement was on foot for the removal of disabilities, which prevented the clergy of the Episcopal Church in Scotland from taking curacies or holding benefices in the Church of England. The disabilities dated from the Jacobite risings of the eighteenth century. "There are some old people still living who have heard from the lips of the widow of the Rev. James Hay—an Episcopal minister in Inverness during the latter part of the eighteenth century—how her husband and his congregation evaded the intolerant statute [which limited the attendance to five.] They met in a house at the east end of Baron Taylor's Lane; and while Mr Hay read service in an apartment containing only four other persons, a trap-door in the ceiling was opened, so that the little flock assembled in the upper room were enabled to hear



their minister and join in the prayers. A trusty Episcopalian was stationed at the door, to give notice when any Hanoverian informer appeared, and on a preconcerted signal being given, the trap-door was closed."

July 7.—The Committee of Subscribers for the improvement of the Ness Islands had received contributions to the amount of £300, and obtained sanction from the Town Council for the erection of bridges. They hoped also to raise sufficient to erect a lodge. The Council agreed to give a subscription of £50.

July 14.—The Russian troops had entered the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, now known as Roumania. The British and French fleets were in Besika Bay, and the situation was under discussion between the Governments. "It is rather remarkable," says the editor, "that with matters in this dubious and perilous position there should be so little apparent excitement in the public mind. If war were declared to-morrow it would hardly be a surprise; and yet there does not appear to be even any great curiosity as to the merits of the question on which that dread appeal is possibly to be taken."

July 21.—At the Sheep and Wool Fair there was a rise in prices for all descriptions of sheep of from 20 to 30 per cent. In wool the sales were limited on account of the high prices asked. Buyers were prepared to give an advance similar to that on sheep, but in many instances this was refused. It is stated that the transactions at the market now amounted annually to about £200,000.

Ibid.—General Stuart, an aged officer in the Russian service, visited Inverness. He claimed to be descended from the Royal Family of Stuart through Prince Charles's daughter, the Duchess of Albany. For many years the venerable officer had made a pilgrimage to Scotland every three or four years to visit the scenes celebrated in connection with the Forty-five.

July 28.—In accordance with the feeling of the House of Commons Mr Gladstone agreed to abolish the advertisement duty



instead of merely reducing it by two-thirds. In consequence of this the "Courier" announced that it would have "a class of small cheap advertisements at 1s 6d each," for persons seeking situations and the like.

*Ibid.*—Several items of local interest are recorded. One is the death of two of the oldest citizens, Donald Fraser, the bellman, and John Macnaughton, the hook-dresser. Donald, though very frail, discharged his duties to the last. Macnaughton for a long time enjoyed the honour of being the only professional dresser of fly-hooks north of Aberdeen. "Thirty years ago not a hook was to be had in Inverness which had not passed through John's hands." Anglers paid half-a-crown for the commonest salmon fly.—The Ness Islands Committee had adopted plans by Mr Dredge for the erection of bridges.—The Rev. George Shepherd, Elgin, died at the age of 59. He had been minister of Laggan and of Kingussie, and joined the Free Church at the Disruption. Afterwards he accepted a call to Elgin.—A paragraph tells about the thirty-six inhabitants of St Kilda who left in the autumn of 1852. Three died on the passage to Melbourne; the others, within two days of their arrival, were all engaged by one employer, at wages varying from £50 to £70 a year.

August 4.—An emigrant ship, called the Countess of Cawdor, cleared out of the Muirtown Locks on the 1st inst. The vessel belonged to Mr Dallas, Nairn, and was bound for Australia. The emigrants numbered about sixty, and their departure excited great interest.

*Ibid.*—The Earl of Seafield died at Cullen House on 30th July, in his seventy-fifth year. His lordship was much esteemed as a kind landlord. He planted and improved largely, rebuilt the town of Cullen, constructed the harbours of Cullen and Portsoy, and made great improvements on the mansion-house and pleasure grounds. His elder brother, Sir Lewis Alexander Grant, succeeded in 1811 his cousin James, seventh Earl of Findlater and fourth Earl of Seafield, who died without issue. The deceased Earl succeeded his brother in 1840.



Ibid.—Local works and improvements are the subject of notice. The new Ness Bridge was proceeding very slowly. "The contractor, Mr Hendrie, has been working with might and main, and he has lately been in the south obtaining larger pumps for emptying the coffer-dam. The hard and stony nature of the lower soil, into which the piles had to be driven, and the porous, gravelly nature of the upper stratum, have been the chief difficulties to contend with."—Most of the building forming the old Jail in Bridge Street had been removed, and the beautiful steeple was to stand for a time in solitary state.—The building of the new lock-up was going on at the base of the Castle Hill.—The improvements at the western end of the Castle Hill had been all but completed. A lodge had been erected, a gateway constructed, and an iron railing run along part of the hill. "The most marked improvements effected by the Commissioners are enclosing the grounds with a good wall, smoothing the surface of the hill, re-sowing the whole with grass, and planting a row of trees, which will hereafter form a pleasant overhanging screen along the roadside and the bank of the river."—At the mouth of the river the Harbour Trustees were working to deepen and widen the channel of the river.—The heavy breastwork of hewn stone, thrown from Kessock to the outer bank of the Canal, which was undertaken conjointly by the Mackintosh Trustees and Mr Matheson, M.P., had been completed for some time, and was pronounced to be as fine a piece of workmanship as could be found around Inverness.

Ibid.—Sir James Matheson, M.P., was entertained to public dinners at Invergordon and Dingwall. At the Dingwall meeting the late Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Gairloch made his first public appearance since he had attained his majority, and met with a very cordial reception.

August 11.—The bill for the abolition of University tests in Scotland had passed its third reading in the House of Commons, and afterwards passed through the Upper House. The Lord Advocate's Sheriff



Courts Bill, which had been the subject of much discussion in Scotland, also became law.

*Ibid.*—In the excavations going on at the site of the old prison, at the corner of Bridge Street and Church Street, ancient tanpits were found, abounding in broken horns and bones of deer, and in one spot the remains of a pig-stye had been preserved! The vertebral bone of a whale had also been turned up.

*Ibid.*—The East Free Church had been almost entirely rebuilt and improved, at a cost of about £1200. On the previous Sunday services were conducted in Gaelic by the Rev. Mr Maclauchlan, and in English, at two diets, by the Rev. Dr Candlish. The collection amounted to £161.

*Ibid.*—In addition to two daily coaches, a daily luggage van was running between Dalwhinnie and Perth, exclusively for baggage, game, and dogs. It was the size of a large omnibus, and was constantly crowded.

August 18.—Grouse shooting opened under very promising circumstances. "The deeds of the first day of the shooting are in some instances, perhaps, unparalleled."

August 25.—Lieutenant-General Lord Saltoun died on the 17th inst., at his shooting quarters at Auchinroath, near Rothes, in the 68th year of his age. In his military career Lord Saltoun distinguished himself under Moore and Wellington, and was severely wounded at Waterloo. He was a Knight of the Thistle, and held other honours, British and Foreign.

*Ibid.*—A memoir had been published of Mr Fairbairn, a distinguished Manchester engineer. He was a native of Kelso, but his father came to the North as land-steward for the Earl of Seafield, and afterwards rented the farm of Moy, near Contin. The son was educated partly at the Parish School of Munloch, and partly at a private school kept at Kinnahaird by a relative of his own, the Rev. John Mackenzie, afterwards minister of Lochcarron.

*Ibid.*—The collection of hunting trophies made by Roualeyn Gordon Cumming in South Africa had arrived at Inverness,



and were to be exhibited in the building in Bank Street formerly occupied as the Free Church. It had been exhibited in London for three years, and formed a great attraction. "The collection is probably unrivalled as the work of one man; and the specimens of wild animals are in many instances the finest in Europe of their kind."

September 8.—Mr William Fraser-Tytler of Balnain and Aldourie, Sheriff of Inverness-shire, died at Malvern on the 4th inst., aged 76. He was sheriff of the county for forty-two years, having succeeded Commissary Fraser of Farraline in 1811, and he was also for many years convener of the county of Inverness. His father, Lord Woodhouselee, was a distinguished Scottish Judge and author, and his grandfather, William Tytler of Woodhouselee, was an eminent antiquary, and wrote a defence of Mary Queen of Scots. By the marriage of Lord Woodhouselee with Anne, daughter and heiress of Balnain and Aldourie, these estates came into the family, and they assumed the name of Fraser as a prefix to their own name of Tytler. Sheriff Fraser-Tytler married Margaret Cussans, only daughter and heiress of George Grant of Burdsyards (now Sanquhar), near Forres; and was succeeded in the Aldourie estates by his eldest surviving son, Captain William Fraser-Tytler of the Hon. East India Company's service.—The same issue records the death of Sir Charles J. Napier, the conqueror of Scinde.

*Ibid.*—The estate of Islay was sold the previous week to Mr Morrison, of the firm of Morison, Dillon, and Co., London, for the sum of £451,000.

September 15.—Painful scenes had occurred at Knoydart, on the estate of Mrs Macdonell of Glengarry, the last portion of the property in the hands of the Glengarry family. The greater part of a population of about four hundred persons, men, women, and children, were evicted. On the part of the owner it was alleged that there were not ten who had paid rent for periods extending from six to fifteen years. A ship was engaged to take the people either to



Australia or Canada, and an outfit was provided. Fifteen or sixteen families, however, numbering altogether about sixty persons, refused to emigrate, and, their huts being pulled down, they retreated to gravel pits and shelters in the hill-sides. The occurrence, it is stated, caused a strong outburst of feeling over the country.

September 15 and 22.—The Northern Meeting came off in favourable weather, the games being held, as usual at this period, in the Academy Park. "The Meeting," we are told, "has almost entirely lost its original character, and is much more an assembly of English sportsmen and southern tourists than of the aristocracy of the Highlands. Scarcely a score of Highland proprietors were on the ground, and these were almost wholly from the neighbourhood of Inverness." These remarks apply but partially at the present day. Highland proprietors from all districts are among the most regular attenders at the Meeting.

September 22.—Professor Aytoun, of Edinburgh, lectured in the Court-House to a crowded audience on the Ballad Poetry of Scotland. He appears to have been passing through Inverness in connection with his duties as Sheriff of Orkney. The lecture was under the auspices of the Mechanics' Institution.

Ibid.—Mr George Young, advocate-depute (the late Lord Young) was appointed sheriff of the county of Inverness, in succession to the late Mr Fraser-Tytler.—The Rev. Thomas Fraser, A.M., was inducted to the parish of Croy.

September 29.—A correspondent contradicts the statements made on behalf of Mrs Macdonell of Glengarry regarding the condition of the Knoydart crofters. Mrs Macdonell had only come into the management of the property in the summer of 1852, and her first act was to warn the people off the land. "At Martinmas of 1852 many of the crofters paid the rent, and they all paid what they could. Glengarry was then living, but is now, alas, dead. This is the true solution of the question." Most of the families who had refused to emigrate



had now obtained shelter or dwellings, chiefly through the kindness of Mr Macdonald, Scothouse.

**Ibid.**—Mr Gladstone, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, had been on a visit to Dunrobin, and was detained there some time by indisposition. On his way south he was presented with the freedom of the burgh of Dingwall and the burgh of Inverness. "At present," says the report, "there are many relatives of the right hon. gentleman residing in Dingwall, and it was at the house of one of these, Mrs Chisholm, that Mr Gladstone remained while in town." At Inverness, it had been arranged that the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council should meet him at the principal bridge entering the town—at that time the Waterloo Bridge—but Mr Gladstone left his carriage on the north side of Kessock Ferry, and, after crossing, took the first omnibus. He was consequently in the Union Hotel before his arrival was known. In both towns Mr Gladstone's visit excited much enthusiasm, and he delivered appropriate speeches.

**October 6.**—Turkey had declared war against Russia. The question now was how the Western Powers would support their ally.

**October 13.**—Captain Alexander Ellice, R.N., Comptroller-General of the Coastguard, and formerly M.P. for Harwich, died suddenly at Glenquoich, the residence of his brother, the Right Hon. Edward Ellice, M.P. He was about sixty years of age, and had seen a good deal of service.

**Ibid.**—In a paragraph on the progress of the work of erecting the Inverness Suspension Bridge, it is stated that in laying the foundation of the great tower, the workmen passed through a bed of clay of the hardest nature, "almost as hard as stone itself." Among the relics turned up were bronze finger-rings and bronze shawl-pins of the very earliest form.

**Ibid.**—An emigrant ship from Liverpool, bound for Quebec, with over 400 emigrants on board, was wrecked in Vatersay Bay, near the Island of Barra, on the 28th ult., and 360 lives were lost. The emigrants were English, Irish, and Scotch, including



a hundred house-carpenters from Glasgow, all of whom perished.

*Ibid.*—Mr Grant, factor for Knoydart, replies to the statements made by a correspondent on the evictions. He says that the arrears of rent outstanding amounted to £2375, and that Mrs Macdonell, acting for her son, who was a minor, considered it her duty to remove a non-paying body of tenants. He also says that liberal provision had been made for the people, and that passages were paid for those who had no means. They preferred to go to America rather than to Australia, because they had friends and relatives in the former country.

October 20.—“The committee of the proposed Inverness and Perth Railway have resolved—the state of the money market precluding the possibility of raising the capital for the entire scheme at the present moment—to confine their attention to the northernmost section, and to apply next session of Parliament for a bill for the formation of a line of railway from Inverness to Nairn.” It was stated that Mr Falshaw, on behalf of Mr Brassey, railway contractor, had examined the ground, and reported favourably, and that Mr Brassey would make a very moderate offer for the work, and take a considerable amount of stock.

October 27.—The editor returns to the subject of the Knoydart evictions. He finds that the recent removals did not arise from any wish on the part of the people to go abroad, nor yet from any pressing necessity involving the welfare of the Glengarry family or affecting the resources of the estate, but solely from an arbitrary resolution formed by one or more of the trustees to clear away the crofter and cottar population. “Mrs Macdonell of Glengarry, the managing trustee, has all along received credit for her liberality and care in providing for those of the people who did emigrate; but the proceedings which followed have been of a character morally indefensible, though perhaps within the limits of the law.” These proceedings consisted of the eviction of twenty families who remained in their old homes, and level-



ling twelve houses to the ground. "Weekly since that date, acting on peremptory orders, the sub-manager and his men have gone the round of the desolated district, and overturned the poor structures erected by the sufferers to shelter themselves from the storms of a premature winter." A representative of the "Scotsman" had visited the district, and strongly condemned the proceedings. The arrears amounted nominally to £2300, but the correspondent believed that it was the intention of the late Glengarry to wipe them out. After the potato failure of 1846, he had directed that no rent should be asked from the crofters, whom he looked upon "less as tenantry than as children and followers." The evictions had everywhere created a painful impression, and were strongly condemned. News, however, had been received that the vessel which carried the Knoydart emigrants to Quebec had arrived all well after a voyage of twenty-eight days.

*Ibid.*—Nearly a hundred persons left Lochaber the previous week for Australia, going under the auspices of the Highland and Island Emigration Society. They went of their own accord, and their landlord, Lochiel, paid a third part of their expenses, and cancelled all arrears of rent. The arrangements seem to have been carried through in the most friendly manner, and though there was sadness at parting, the emigrants gave three cheers as the vessel moved away.

*Ibid.*—Three young men were drowned by the upsetting of a boat near Orbst, in Skye. One was the youngest son of the Orbst family.

November 3.—A visitation of cholera, though less widespread and acute than on former occasions, had caused alarm in the country. The Presbytery of Edinburgh had proposed a national fast, but Lord Palmerston, who was Home Secretary, declined to comply with the request. He recognised the Christian doctrine that "manifestations of humble resignation to the divine will, and sincere manifestations of human unworthiness are never more appropriate than when it has pleased Provi-



dence to afflict mankind with some severe visitation;" but he considered that the nation should proceed in the work of sanitary purification and improvement before invoking the blessing of Heaven on their exertions.

Ibid.—Three men from Suishnish, in Skye, were tried before the sheriff and a jury for deforcement. "It appears that the trustee on Lord Macdonald's estate in Skye, with the view of forming a sheep-farm of some extent, removed thirty-two families, or about 120 persons, from the holdings they occupied to a different part of the estate. The arrears of rent are said to have been trifling, and with the present improved prices for stock, a good potato crop, and excellent herring fishing, the men were in comfortable circumstances—able and willing to pay rent. Indeed, the Suishnish and Borreraig crofters have always been held to be the most respectable of their class in Skye. Some of the men resisted the officers sent to turn them out, but no violence was used, and the jury, by a large majority, acquitted the parties." It is stated that the sympathies of the public were strongly with the Skyemen, and there was a general impression that the proprietor himself sympathised with them.

Ibid.—A sum of £350 had been collected for the erection of bridges at the Ness Islands, and Mr Dredge, of Bath, was now erecting the two at each side. A sum of about £120 was still required for the erection of a lodge and an intermediate bridge connecting the two islands.

Ibid.—Mr Alex. Grant, factor for Knoydart, wrote denying that the late Glengarry had remitted the crofters' rents. "I frequently," he said, "suggested to Glengarry the propriety of relinquishing the rents due by the crofters, and commencing them on new accounts. He always resolutely refused to do so, but used various ways and means to stimulate them to habits of exertion and industry." The editor says:—"Whatever resolutions Glengarry expressed to Mr Grant respecting arrears, he never offered to carry them into effect. It was not until after his death that summonses of removal were served upon the crofters."



November 10.—Mr Thomas Mulock, who had been for some time resident in Inverness, apologised for certain charges which he had brought against the Duke of Sutherland respecting the management of his estates. "My mind," he says, "has undergone no change respecting the impolicy of Highland clearances. But I feel conscientiously convinced that even unquestionable truths may be advocated with an angry pertinacity which impedes usefulness instead of promoting it."

November 17.—After a long series of disputes and unauthorised military collisions, the Czar Nicolas had declared war against Turkey. The question what the western Powers would do had not yet been determined.

Ibid.—The prospectus had now been issued for the construction of the Inverness and Nairn Railway. The Great North of Scotland had allowed their powers on the west side of the Spey, or at least west of Elgin, to lapse, and had made no movement for a revival of them. Mr Brassey, "who had made more railways than perhaps any man living," had offered to construct the Inverness and Nairn line for little more than £4000 a mile. "The whole distance is but fifteen and a half miles; there is scarcely a brook to cross, and the land between the termini is almost a dead level."

Ibid.—A new landing pier, about three hundred feet in length, had been constructed at Nairn, largely through the efforts of Provost Wilson.—Waterworks were completed and opened at Invergordon.

November 24.—The farm-steading at Bunchrew was destroyed by fire, and some cattle perished.

Ibid.—The report of the Highland Emigration Society, organised by Sheriff Fraser, Portree, had been issued. The Society raised in contributions a sum of £8000, and had expended, for the year ending the previous April, £7200; by which sum 2600 emigrants of all ages had been enabled to emigrate to Australia. A sum of £2400 became due from the proprietors of the estates from which these people went, on account of one-third payable by them, and



was in course of collection. An amount of £7000 was also due to the Society by the emigrants themselves, for which the committee had taken promissory notes. The balance in the hands of the treasurer at the date of the balance-sheet was £2748, which had since been increased by £3000 voted by the Colonial Legislature of Van Diemen's Land. The Society proposed to continue its operations.

*Ibid.*—The proposal was mooted, at the suggestion of Bishop Eden, for the erection of a Cathedral at Inverness as the future seat of the Bishops of Moray and Ross. It was not, however, until 1866 that the foundation of the Cathedral was laid.

December 1 to 22.—Meetings were held during these weeks in promotion of the Inverness and Nairn Railway. There were also meetings for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the town. The issue of the 15th records the death of the Rev. James Grant, minister of Nairn, father of Colonel J. A. Grant, the Nile traveller. He had been parish minister of Nairn since 1815. The death is also recorded of Colonel Alexander Fraser, Glengarry, Canada, who was a native of Glendoe, in Stratherrick, and went in the early part of the century to Canada with the Canadian Fencible Regiment from Scotland. He became a member of the Legislative Council.

December 29.—This issue gives prominence to the report that "in the balance of probabilities, and in the actual belief of the Government," Great Britain was now virtually at war with Russia. The destruction of a Turkish naval squadron at Sinope by a superior naval force was at anyrate hurrying matters to a crisis.



## No. XIII.

The year 1854 saw the first stage of the Crimean War, carried on by the armies of Britain and France against Russia in support of Turkey. Great efforts were made to avoid war, but there was strong indignation in France and England against the aggression and the autocratic attitude of the Czar, and their Governments were forced into action. To an autograph letter written by the French Emperor on 29th January, the Czar sent a haughty reply, with an allusion to the retreat from Moscow. A deputation from the Society of Friends, which visited St Petersburg, was courteously received, but was informed by the Czar that he could not permit the Turks to violate the stipulations of treaties made for the protection of his co-religionists. On 8th February the Russian Ambassador left London, and on the 27th the British Government sent an ultimatum, to which no reply was delivered, and war was formally declared. The allied fleet had been sent to the Black Sea, and in due course the allied forces were transported to the Crimea. The battle of Alma was fought on 20th September, and was followed by the opening of the siege of Sebastopol, and the battles of Balaclava and Inkermann.

The great event in the North of Scotland was the beginning of the railway line from Inverness to Nairn. The first turf was cut by the Countess of Seafield on 21st September.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1854.

January 5.—The "Courier" began the year enlarged to eight pages, in the form which has long been familiar. The change was acceptable, and the circulation, satisfactory as it was before, rapidly increased. The



first number contained a long review of two volumes of the *Memoirs of the poet Thomas Moore*, edited by Lord John Russell. A snowstorm covered the country, and the frost was the most severe since January 1841. In three places in the neighbourhood of Inverness the mercury had fallen to 22 degrees below freezing point. The Caledonian Canal, for the first time for fifteen years, afforded excellent skating.

*Ibid.*—Mr Hugh Scobie, who is described as the warm and considerate friend of all who left the North of Scotland to settle in Canada, died in Toronto on 4th December. He was born at Fort-George, the third son of Captain James Scobie, of the 93rd Highlanders, and was intended for the legal profession, but on the death of his father the family went to Canada and took up land. Mr Scobie was in his forty-second year.

*Ibid.*—A memorandum from the Macdonald trustees in Skye describes the circumstances that led to the eviction of crofters from Borreraig and Suishnish. The document states that after some families had emigrated only eighteen crofters remained; that of these eight or ten availed themselves of offers for other suitable holdings, where they could obtain education for their children; and that only the four remaining were evicted, because they obstinately refused to come to any terms. The trustees averred that the crofters, though occupying good land, had been steadily retrograding, and that the landlord had been over-indulgent.

January 12.—All Europe was bound in frost. A great storm had blocked roads and railways in the United Kingdom, and had inflicted considerable loss of life and shipping. In Inverness, however, the storm was little felt, except that sometimes the cold was intense. "We have had simply alternations of thaw and frost, with very little wind, very little snow, and no rain."

*Ibid.*—A paper on the astronomy of the year 1853 appears in this issue, written by Mr Robert Grant, secretary to the Royal Astronomical Society, London. His communications were continued to the paper after he became Professor in Glasgow.



*Ibid.*—A quotation, apparently from a London source, appears with reference to Sir Robert Peel and Disraeli. "Notwithstanding the fierce struggle of '45-46, Peel lived to appreciate Mr Disraeli; and, strange to say, his last public act was to cheer in the House of Commons the author of his downfall. It was when Mr Disraeli closed the debate on the famous Palmerston discussion. This is not rumour or hearsay; for the writer of this article sat next to Sir Robert on that occasion. A few days after, when the horrible tragedy was over, amid a group of mourning spectators, we heard Mr Gladstone urge as a consolation—'Peel died at peace with all mankind; he even lived to cheer Disraeli.'"

January 19.—In some newspapers at his time there was a good deal of talk about the alleged interference of Prince Albert in public affairs. A somewhat comic incident was a letter written to the Prince by Mr Thomas Mulock, then in Dublin, expressing his indignation at the "charges audaciously preferred against you," which letter the Prince kindly acknowledged. The editor, after quoting the correspondence, says that Mr Mulock was of an impulsive temperament, always ready for a shindy against what, in his alliterative style, he would call the peccant part of the press, the peerage, and the pulpit. Mr Mulock was the father of Miss Mulock, author of "John Halifax, Gentleman."

*Ibid.*—After a month of the severest frost known in the neighbourhood for many years a rapid and effectual thaw had set in. Mention is made of the fact that the river Rhine was frozen over on the 4th inst.

*Ibid.*—Wheat had risen to a very high price. The imperial average for the week ending January 7th was 76s 2d; the average at Haddington market on Friday, the 13th, was 78s 5d; and, taking the country over, it was stated that the price could not now be given at less than 80s.

January 26.—The Inverness Town Council met and drew up a memorial protesting against the delay in constructing the Suspension Bridge. "Five years," said one of the magistrates, "have now gone by, and not one pillar of this bridge is finished yet ;



no, nor half a pillar." The second contractor for the bridge had failed, and all the plant and materials were now in the hands of the Commissioners of Highland Roads and Bridges.

**Ibid.**—"Among the signs of the good angling prospects this year on the Ness is the number of otters seen about the river. A few weeks ago two were captured on the same day above the Islands, and a very large and powerful otter was killed opposite Wells Street on Monday last. Several others have been seen, principally about the Islands and the Canal bank, at the Holm Pool."—The issue contains a series of extracts from a manuscript journal kept by an English servant who came to Fort-George in 1782 with an officer, Major Macleod, and afterwards accompanied the family to Glenelg and Skye. The journal contains interesting information about the condition of the Glenelg and Skye people.

February 2.—Alexander Smith, author of a "Life Drama," etc., had recently made a reputation as a poet, and satisfaction was now expressed that he had been appointed to the office of secretary of Edinburgh University.

**Ibid.**—Among some old papers that came into the editor's hands was a precognition taken by the Magistrates of Inverness respecting the abstraction of the body of one Alexander Mackintosh, who was executed and hung in chains at Muirfield in 1773. His body had been abstracted by clansmen and buried elsewhere. Some of the precognitions are given, but none of the persons who were examined—neighbouring farmers—could throw any light on the subject. The editor remarks that there was evidently no wish on the part either of magistrates or witnesses to discover the parties involved.

February 9.—A gamekeeper was tried at Inveraray on the charge of stealing a deer, because he had shot one on an island in Loch-Craignish, from a herd which was claimed as private property. The jury found—"That the panel had killed a deer on the island; but in respect that the island cannot be considered as an encl-



sure in terms of the Act, they unanimously acquit the prisoner of the charge of theft."

February 16.—"The Russian Ambassadors have left London and Paris, and the British and French Ambassadors are on their way home from St Petersburg. We have all the preliminaries and accessories of war, but we have not war itself. Neither has a proclamation been made nor a blow struck."—Lord John Russell had introduced a Reform Bill, which came to nothing.

Ibid.—A fire took place the previous week at Invergordon, which destroyed two houses and three shops.

February 23.—The bill for the construction of the Inverness and Nairn Railway passed the standing orders on the 20th inst.

Ibid.—An active citizen named Alexander F. Mackenzie, tacksman of Kessock Ferry, was drowned on the 21st inst. He had jumped into a small boat to assist with a rope one of the ferry boats, which in the state of wind and tide had difficulty in reaching the pier. His boat, however, was carried past, and in attempting to catch the side of a neighbouring sloop his hands slipped, and he fell into the water and was drowned. Mr Mackenzie was a member of Town Council.

March 2.—"Last week some men who were excavating earth for the purpose of making a new road at Castle-leather discovered, at a depth of about two feet and a half in the ground, a large gold ring of curious and very rough workmanship. It consisted apparently of three gold wires of considerable thickness, ingeniously twisted, which were beaten together and flattened at one end. The gold is remarkably pure."

Ibid.—A correspondent gives some particulars respecting Mr Robertson, Provost of Dingwall, maternal grandfather of Mr Gladstone. Before his time a member of each family in the burgh was obliged to work for three days annually in the town's moss at the cutting of peats, and three days at shearing or reaping, for the Provost. Further, each family was bound to present his honour yearly with a dozen eggs. Provost Robertson "viewed the matter as a most iniquitous tax, and at



once discontinued the custom, for which the blessings of his fellow-townsmen were showered upon him."

March 9.—The Inverness County Meeting accepted the sum of £2000 as compensation for the probable loss of toll revenue on the road from Castle Stuart to Nairnshire from the formation of the Inverness and Nairn Railway. The debt on the road was £4190. The county also discussed the Lord Advocate's new Valuation Bill, a measure intended to make considerable changes in the valuation of property.

March 16.—A banquet was given to Sir Charles Napier on his appointment to the command of the Baltic Fleet, Lord Palmerston being in the chair.

Ibid.—The Suspension Bridge was now making progress, a new company having undertaken the contract. The contractors had leased the quarries of Redcastle and Tarra-dale.

Ibid.—The estate of Relugas, in Morayshire, had been purchased by Mr Smith, of the London banking firm of Smith, Payne, and Company, for £18,500. The former proprietor, Mr Mackillican, had acquired the estate from Sir Thomas Dick Lauder for about £15,000.

Ibid.—Mr John Menzies, who died at Delbuiack, near Carr-Bridge, at the age of 83, began life as farm manager for Sir Neil Menzies in Perthshire, and afterwards farmed for himself in Appin, in Rannoch, and finally at Delbuiack. He was a man of great energy, and a fine specimen of a Highlander. One of his sons was the Rev. John Menzies, minister of Fodderty, in Ross-shire.

March 23.—Dr Hugh Macpherson, Professor of Greek in the University of Aberdeen, and sub-Principal, died on the 12th inst., aged 87. His father was minister of the parish of Golspie, and his mother one of the Gordons of Carroll. In his childhood, on the death of his father, he went to reside at Sleat with a relative, Dr Martin Macpherson, the representative of a family long settled there. It was Dr Martin Macpherson's brother, Sir John Macpherson, sometime Governor-General of India, who evinced his warm regard for his



northern Alma Mater by founding the valuable bursaries bearing his name. Dr Hugh Macpherson was a graduate both in arts and medicine, and practised medicine in his early days. He was proprietor of the island of Eigg, in the county of Inverness.

March 30.—There is a long review of Hugh Miller's "Schools and Schoolmasters," and a briefer notice of one of his lectures on Geology. "An earnest, large-hearted and sincere man is Hugh Miller," says the writer, evidently Hugh's friend, Dr Carruthers. "He has much knowledge, laboriously acquired through years of unpromising toil and study, and great powers of observation, reflection, and even humour, chastened by the gracious influences of early piety and by that homely wisdom which has its seat equally in the heart and understanding, and is best taught in the shades of obscurity and poverty. Few men have combined in the same proportions the habit of patient investigation and analysis, and the talent for popular and picturesque writing."

Ibid.—A message from the Crown, on the 27th inst., announced to Parliament the end of negotiations with Russia, and the obligation to afford active assistance to the Sultan against unprovoked aggression. On the same day the French Emperor also announced the final rupture with Russia.

March 30.—Dr Alexander Macleod, Ostaig, Skye, was killed during a visit to Knoydart, by missing his way in a dark night, and falling over a precipice. "Dr Macleod enjoyed a high reputation as a surgeon, and his medical skill was no less extensively appreciated than gratuitously awarded to the poor." He had long been a notable man in the Western Islands.

April 6.—Summonses had been sent for the removal of four tenants on the property of Greenyards, near Bonar-Bridge, belonging to Major Robertson of Kindeace. The sheriff-officer who was first sent was met by a crowd of men and women, who stripped him and burned his papers. On Friday, 31st March, several sheriff's officers were despatched to the district, accompanied by a police force of about thirty



men, and the Sheriff of the district. They also were met by a large crowd carrying sticks and stones, the women in front, the men in the rear. In the scrimmage that ensued, the police used their batons freely, and a number of the women—from ten to fifteen it was alleged—were severely injured. None of the policemen appear to have been hurt, and the inference was that they had used unnecessary violence. The summonses were served. Some of the women were arrested, but liberated on bail.

*Ibid.*—A correspondent who writes on the case recalls the evictions of Glen-Calvie on the same estate in 1845. At that time there was also resistance, but the factor yielded to counsel, and the Free Church minister gave advice to the people, which bore fruit. The summonses were regularly served, and the people were allowed to remain for a year, many of them being disposed to emigrate. By Whitsunday 1846, it is stated, all removed peaceably. "Would not the exercise of a little patience," says the writer, "have wrought better in the present case? The people could not summarily remove in the course of forty days, and considering the difficulty of getting other homes for a year or two, one need not wonder so much at their resistance. The expenses in this case, I should suppose, will amount to £80 or £90 at least. It would doubtless be cheaper for the county to give the proprietor a thirty years' purchase of the crofts at once."

*Ibid.*—The ship *Countess of Cawdor*, belonging to a Nairnshire owner, which left Inverness with emigrants for Australia on 1st August 1853, arrived safely at Geelong on 27th December. The passengers complained of the tediousness of the voyage. There was, however, no death during the passage, and there was one birth.

*Ibid.*—Mr John Macpherson, Heath Cottage, an uncle of the late Mr Mackintosh of Holme, was killed the previous week at Craggie Bridge on the River Nairn. He was accompanying a deputation to examine schools in the district, and was



driving in a phaeton along with the Rev. Dr Macdonald, Inverness. The horse became restive, and rushed off at a gallop, near Craggie, with the result that the phaeton struck the corner of the bridge, and Mr Macpherson was shot over the parapet to the rocks below. Dr Macdonald managed to cling to the vehicle, and at the other end of the bridge was thrown out upon the road comparatively unhurt. Mr Macpherson is described as one of the most kindly and warm-hearted citizens of Inverness.

*Ibid.*—The Glen-Urquhart Association for the promotion of flax-growing found itself with an over-drawn bank account. Its members, however, still believed in their scheme, and resolved to ask for a small grant from the Government.

*Ibid.*—The death of Professor Wilson (Christopher North) is recorded in this issue.

April 13.—The report on the Inverness Bridge by Mr James M. Rendal, the Government engineer, states that he had induced Mr Leather, who was executing the Portland Breakwater works for the Admiralty, to undertake the completion of the Bridge. The sum already expended amounted to £8959, leaving available £9440 of the original Parliamentary grant and Treasury loan; and there was in addition a sum of £1150 forfeited by the security for the second contractor, and stock and plant valued at £1400 forfeited by the first contractor. Both these contractors having failed. There was thus £11,990 available for all future charges, and the engineer thought this sum would be sufficient.

April 20.—The following is from "Punch":—"Palmerston, in consequence of his strong advocacy of Turkey, goes by the name of 'The Judicious Bottle-holder of the Porte.'"

April 27.—There is a further statement with reference to the Greenyard evictions. The tenants who were to be removed were only three in number. It is alleged that the crowd who opposed the police and sheriff-officers numbered three hundred persons, and that the obstruction was so violent that the police were obliged to use their batons or to suffer maltreatment.



May 4.—Lord Cockburn, a famous Scottish Judge, the friend and biographer of Lord Jeffrey, died on the 26th ult. in the 75th year of his age. Four posthumous works were afterwards published, of which the best known is the "Memorials of His Time."

Ibid.—Mr Welsh of Millburn opposed the Inverness and Nairn line, on the ground that it passed too close to his house. The Nairnshire Turnpike Trustees had accepted £356 as compensation for loss of revenue from tolls on the west side of Nairn.

Ibid.—A long ecclesiastical case, arising from the presentation of the Rev. Mr Mackenzie, Kirkhill, to the parish of Kiltarlity, come to an end through the withdrawal of the presentee.

May 11.—Miss Isabella Begg, a niece of Robert Burns, was selected to give the name to the house erected by Mr James Baird on the banks of the Doon, near Ayr. A bottle of whisky was broken over the main entrance, and the name of "Cambusdoon" was given to the mansion. Isabella's mother, Mrs Begg, a widow above eighty years of age, who bore a strong resemblance to her brother the poet, was present on the occasion. Mr Baird was induced to purchase his Ayrshire property from its connection with Robert Burns.

May 18.—A woollen manufactory was opened at Avoch by the proprietor, Mr Mackenzie.

May 25.—The allied fleets had command of the Black Sea, and were making demonstrations at various points, including Sebastopol. In the Baltic Admiral Napier's fleet had destroyed the Castle of Gustafshorn, at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland. This gave the fleet the command of the Sound, and safe anchorage.

June 1.—Mr Donald Stewart, formerly in Luskintyre, Harris, died on the 19th ult. at an advanced age at Glen-Nevis. He had been one of the most enterprising of Highland farmers and graziers, and frequently received prize medals from the Highland Society. For many years he had the management of the Harris estate.



He is described as a most hospitable and worthy gentleman.

*Ibid.*—Extracts are given from the journal of a Highland soldier at Gallipoli, dated from the 11th to the 29th of April. Camps were formed there by British and French soldiers. The writer says:—"There is a great want of comfort. We are crammed sixteen men into a tent; the company officers have to do with one tent without furniture, and they have to pay for its carriage from place to place. The officers are providing themselves with camels and mules, the French having brought numbers of the latter into the country." It is alleged that a Russian spy, disguised as a Turk, was detected selling poisoned coffee to the soldiers. The journal is continued in subsequent issues, giving particulars which must have been of great interest at the time.

June 1 and 8.—A petition against the settlement of the Rev. James Burns as minister of the parish of Nairn was promoted by a minority on the ground of his ignorance of Gaelic. They afterwards, however, gave way, and many of them signed the call.

June 8.—A correspondent challenges the statement, frequently made, that the Master of Lovat was not present at the Battle of Culloden. The point has often been discussed. The writer in this case adduces some evidence (which is not, however, conclusive) in favour of the Master's presence, and adds a remark, which may be quoted—"The very critical position in which the Master afterwards stood would render it incumbent on all his friends to keep his presence a secret."

June 15.—The disembarkation of ten thousand British troops at Varna is announced.

June 22.—The masons working at the Inverness Bridge, about twenty in number, struck work for an increase of wages. They were in receipt of a guinea a week, and demanded an increase of three shillings. The tailors in town had also struck for an advance of wages.

July 6.—The Inverness and Nairn Railway Bill had been going through its stages before the Parliamentary Committees. Mr Welsh of Millburn had been a pertinacious



opponent, but this issue announces that the local committee had accepted terms proposed by Mr Welsh, and that his opposition was consequently withdrawn.

July 13.—The estate of Guisachan, Strathglass, had just been purchased by Mr Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks, M.P. (afterwards first Lord Tweedmouth.) The price is not mentioned, but we know from other sources that it was £52,000.

Ibid.—An account is given of the improvements in the Ness Islands. The two iron bridges had been erected, plain wooden bridges joined the islands, and a small porter's lodge had been built. A sum of £400 had been collected in Inverness, but only a few contributions had come from townsmen at a distance, and the Committee could incur no outlay to complete further desirable improvements. "In fact they are already deeply in debt, and know not where to look for relief."

July 15.—This is the first issue of the Wool Market Circular, a four page, half the size of the ordinary paper, and charged fourpence. The market, owing to the war, was unsettled. Serious failures had recently occurred in Bradford. "The result has been some reduction in the price of sheep, and scarcely any business done in wool. On such lots of ewes and wethers as sold high last year, the fall has been about 2s a head; on others from 1s to 1s 6d. Wool that sold readily last year at 21s 6d per stone could not obtain a higher offer than 14s 6d, and most of the northern fleeces will be consigned to the commission agents." The price of sheep, however, was still good.

July 20.—The Rev. Joseph Thorburn, minister of the Free High Church, died on the 15th inst. in his fifty-fifth year. Mr Thorburn was minister at Forglen when he received in 1844 the call to Inverness. He declined to accept, as he did not feel fitted for such an important charge—"his talents were not equal to it"—but the Assembly resolved to send him, and he complied. His ministrations proved very successful, and he was greatly respected in the town.

July 27 to August 10.—These issues, like many others, are full of material relating



to the war with Russia, along with the London Letter and "Notes from our Club," which latter formed a supplement to the usual metropolitan gossip. There is, however, little of local interest. Mr John Sutherland, whom many citizens will remember, was appointed police superintendent for the burgh of Inverness. The Rev. Dr Mackintosh, Free Church minister of Tain, accepted a call to Dunoon.

August 17.—The grouse season had begun well, and shootings, which had been a little slow to let, were now nearly all taken.

Ibid.—Professor Wilson, Rector of Tain Academy, died in his forty-ninth year. He was a native of the Borders, and after studying at St Andrews turned his attention to mathematical and scientific pursuits. He was for some time Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Andersonian College, Glasgow, from which he came to Inverness as Rector of the Royal Academy. Subsequently he returned to Glasgow, but afterwards accepted the appointment of Rector of Tain Academy, the duties of which he discharged with much success for four years.

August 24.—A paragraph headed "Old John Maclean's Snuff-horn" says:—"This relic of the centenarian, John Maclean, whom her Majesty called the Highland historian when she presented him with a liberal donation some years ago, has been handsomely mounted in silver by Mr Mason, jeweller, and an inscription engraved upon it, stating the age of John Maclean, and his services in reviving the traditions of the Highlands, and chronicling circumstances of which, but for him, we should probably have lost all record." If this relic still exists the Museum might look after it.

August 24 and 31.—On the former date a correspondent writes that when examining the early records of the Royal Society at Somerset House, he came across the following entry:—"May 26, 1663. Sir Robert Murray [at the meeting of the Society held this day] related that in Scotland, near Lough Broom, between the lough and a hill, there was an old fir wood



all fallen down, the trees lying cross-over one another to a man's height, and in part covered with moss, the earth being grown and raised to those firs, although not yet so high as to reach the top, which he conceived it will do in progress of time, and so bury the trees, as it is found in Cheshire and elsewhere." In the issue of the 31st a correspondent at Ullapool writes that the place to which Sir Robert is supposed to refer is Strathcoinart, about a mile north from Lochbroom. Firwood continued to be found there in great profusion, and was used for fuel, house-building, and other purposes. "Parts of the trees are still above ground, but the rest is covered with peat moss; and when uncovered, the trees are seen lying in fantastic shapes and in chaotic confusion, in the direction of all points of the compass. A tree was dug out of this moss a few years ago, in length about sixty feet, and eighteen inches in diameter. It supplied two mills in the parish with axles for their waterwheels."

September 7.—A large ship, the "David Maciver," of Birkenhead, had sailed for Australia with 400 emigrants. A considerable number of these were natives of the Highlands.

September 14.—At the Inverness Circuit Court a man and woman from Kincardine, in Ross-shire, were charged with mobbing and rioting and breach of the peace in connection with the Greenyard removals on the Kindeace property. The prisoners pleaded guilty to the charge of breach of the peace, which was accepted by the Advocate Depute. Lord-Justice Clerk Hope, who was on the bench, sentenced the man to eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour, and the woman to twelve months' imprisonment.

September 21.—This day (the paper was published in the afternoon) the first turf of the Inverness and Nairn Railway was cut by the Countess of Seafield. The spot selected for the ceremony was an open field between the Academy Park and the Mackintosh lands adjoining Seabank. The town held holiday, and there was a procession, headed by the Provost, Magi-



strates, and Town Council of Inverness, and attended by the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Nairn. The Countess was accompanied by her husband and young son, and was received by Cluny Macpherson, chairman of the company, and other directors. Special credit for the passing of the bill is given to Cluny, Mr Mackintosh of Raigmore, Captain Fraser-Tytler, and a few other gentlemen, who had succeeded in getting the shares subscribed for, and the requisite deposit made; also to Mr Joseph Mitchell, C.E., and the agents, Messrs Anderson. Messrs Brassey and Falshaw had contracted to complete the line for £65,000, of which nearly a third was to be paid in stock. The capital to be raised was intended to exceed the cost of construction by one-third, and adding the cost of rolling stock and all expenses, it was computed that the outlay would not exceed £6000 a mile, which for the  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles between Inverness and Nairn gave a total cost of £93,000. The line at first was to be single, but land was taken for a double line, and the bridges were to be constructed for a double line. The enterprise was regarded as the first step towards a continuous line to the south, and it is noted that part of the projected Aberdeenshire connection had just been opened. This was the chief section of the Great North between Aberdeen and Huntly.—The Northern Meeting was held on the 21st and 22nd, but there was nothing of special interest.

September 28 and October 5.—The former issue records the safe and unopposed landing of the allied army in the Crimea, and the second gives an account of the victory on the banks of the Alma (20th September), and adds a report of the capture of Sebastopol. This report, which was very persistent, proved unfortunately to be unfounded. It appears, however, that the British commander, Lord Raglan, had been willing to make the attempt, and that in all probability it would have proved successful. His French colleague, however, Marshal St Arnaud, who was suffering from fatal illness, refused his concurrence, and the Russians had time to fortify



the weak part of their defences. They also caused seven of their largest ships to be sunk across the entrance to the harbour. These circumstances led to the long and terrible siege. St Arnaud before his death, acting on sealed orders, transferred the command of the French Army to General Canrobert. In the following issue of the paper there are indignant comments on the hoax which had been perpetrated on the British public by the report of the fall of Sebastopol. It seems that too ready credence was given to a verbal statement made by a Tartar messenger, sent with despatches, to Omar Pasha at Bucharest.

October 12.—Among the officers to whom the battle of Alma proved fatal was Major John B. Rose of Kilravock, who was in the 55th Regiment. He is described as a brave officer and a generous friend. He died on the 21st, having received two wounds, one from a ball in the chest. Major Rose had just completed his 45th year. He had previously seen service in China. Lieutenant Abercromby, of the 93rd, son of Sir Robert Abercromby of Forglen, was also killed. Letters from soldiers, and extracts from the letters of the "Times" correspondent are given in the issue. Sir Colin Campbell is reported to have said when the Highlanders came to the charge—"Highlanders, I am going to ask a favour of you. It is that you will act so as to justify me in asking permission of the Queen for you to wear a bonnet. Don't pull a trigger until you are within a yard of the Russians." So they charged, and carried the Russian battery at a bound, though Sir Colin had his horse shot under him. Sir George Brown (of Linkwood) rode in front of the Light Division, conspicuous on a grey horse, urging them with voice and gesture. His horse was also killed, Sir George going down in a cloud of dust in front of the Russian battery. He was soon up, shouting "23rd, I'm all right; be sure I'll remember this day," and led his men on again. In the momentary shock caused by his fall, however, the regiment suffered severely before charging the battery.



*Ibid.*—When Mr Rendel, the engineer, was in Inverness, he assigned as one cause of the delay of the bridge works that he had been “misled by a report on the nature of the foundations.” Mr Joseph Mitchell, who made the report, writes that the imputation is incorrect. His original report stated that in making the borings the men were awkward and the rods broke, but he had arrived at certain conclusions as to the nature of the bed of the river. “We made four borings,” he stated in his report, “on the west side and two on the east side of the river, at the old site, and the result is 7 to 8 feet of shore gravel or shingle, in the first instance; 2 to 3 feet of gravel mixed with clay of rather a soft nature; and below that, at 10½ or 11 feet from the surface, there is a hard mountain clay, such as I think will render piles unnecessary. The clay is yellow and not blue, as I thought.” Mr Mitchell now adds that his observations were confirmed in a very remarkable degree by the excavations subsequently made. “The delays and great expense have arisen from acting in defiance of the information furnished; by burrowing into the ‘hard mountain clay’ unnecessarily; and attempting to construct a cofferdam through an almost impenetrable material, which, of course, broke and destroyed the piles.”

October 19.—An excellent map of the Crimea accompanies this issue, and the account of the battle of the Alma, given by the correspondent of the “Times,” is quoted with the remark that “it is written with a graphic power which imparts to it a peculiar charm.” Complaints of the condition of the wounded at Scutari have already arisen.

*Ibid.*—Mr Thomas Mackenzie, architect, Elgin, died on the 15th inst. Mr Mackenzie had carried off the premium for the best design for a Free Church college in Edinburgh, and he had executed many important works in the North, of which the Caledonian Bank, Inverness, and the Free English Church (Free High) are mentioned as fine specimens.

*Ibid.*—There is an interesting column on a



visit to the Island of Skye, with quotations from poetical effusions in hotel books. A paragraph from the "Toronto Globe" mentions that Brown University, Rhode Island, had conferred the degree of LL.D. on Hugh Miller. The congregation of the Free High Church, Inverness, had resolved to give a call to the Rev. John Macnaughton, of Belfast.

October 26.—The Highland soldier, who was writing from the seat of war to the "Courier" was now in difficulties from want of paper. Some soldiers had written home on rags of cloth. In a brief note the correspondent says:—"I did not get a scratch at the Alma—only a musket ball going through my feather bonnet. Some of our men had buttons shot off their coats, yet escaped unhurt. When the first shower of balls whistled over our heads, I scarcely knew what to think, but the words of the Psalmist, 'God is my help and my shield' came very forcibly to my mind, and I marched on with my brave comrades. . . . Our loss was very small, seven killed and fifty-four wounded. John Cameron, from Nigg, was the first that was killed, in consequence of the bursting of a shell, as we crossed a rivulet." Some time afterwards the writer fell ill, and had to be sent to hospital at Scutari, from which he also wrote. The report appears that Dr James Thomson, of Cromarty, assistant surgeon of the 44th Regiment, had died of cholera. To Dr Thomson had been assigned the trying duty of tending the wounded Russians on the field of Alma.

Ibid.—A provisional committee had been formed to promote an Inverness and Elgin junction railway, with the Earl of Seafield as chairman.

Ibid.—The Inverness Free High Church had been provided with a bell, which weighed 13 cwt., and was to be the most powerful bell in town. The bell bore the inscription—"Presented to the Free High Church, Inverness, by George France, in compliance with a dying wish of his eldest son, Peter, 1854."

November 2.—Mr John Mackenzie, banker, Inverness, died suddenly on the 28th inst.



while attending to business. He was in his 67th year, and had been for nearly thirty years a prominent and active citizen. He was the first Provost of Inverness after the passing of the Reform Bill. Mr Mackenzie was the youngest son of Alexander Mackenzie of Portmore, W.S., and brother of Colin Mackenzie (the eldest son), who was the well-known friend of Sir Walter Scott. In his youth John resided for a short time in Riga on behalf of a firm with which he was associated in Leith; but about 1807 he purchased a large tract of forest timber in Strathglass—the remainder of a speculation entered into by another enterprising gentleman, Mr Nicol, Teawig, father of another well-known Invernessian, Dr Nicol. In 1821 Mr Mackenzie was appointed Collector of Taxes for the county of Ross, and in 1825 agent for the Bank of Scotland in Inverness. Here he exercised great influence, and was connected for years with every local movement of importance.

*Ibid.*—Lord Frederick Leveson Gower, second son of the Duke of Sutherland, a gallant young officer in his 22nd year, died on board the *Bellerophon* on his way home. He had contracted illness at Varna, but persisted in going with his comrades to the Crimea. He was, however, unable to land, and his illness proved fatal.—Miss Florence Nightingale, then aged thirty-four, had gone out to organise the nursing staff in the military hospitals. Miss Nightingale had studied in hospitals in London, and had acted for three months as nurse in a German hospital. “She is already at her post, accompanied by devoted adherents, and lightening the misery of the sick and the dying, amidst scenes that might appal the stoutest nerves.” The siege of Sebastopol was now in full progress.

November 9 to 30.—These issues contain accounts of the battle of Balaclava, fought on 25th October, and the battle of Inkermann, fought on 5th November. The charge of the Light Brigade at the former battle receives due prominence. The news came at first in a somewhat perplexing



form, but later despatches gave full information. At Inkermann Sir George Cathcart was killed and Sir George Brown wounded. Meetings were held all over the country to promote a Patriotic Fund.

November 30.—Sir William Gordon Cumming, Bart. of Altyre, died on the 23rd inst, aged 67. "As a landlord and member of society Sir William was much esteemed. He had read extensively, was well versed in Scottish antiquities, and had a fund of quaint humour and grotesque illustration, which rendered his conversation always lively and attractive."

Ibid.—On the 27th inst. a man named Donald Ross died at Nairn, said to be 108 years of age. "This is the age which his friends directed to be inscribed on his coffin; but we believe he was several years older. It is said he was employed, when sixteen years of age, as one of a boat's crew in carrying stones from the opposite side of the Firth to Fort-George, when that fortress was in course of erection." The old man was a native of the parish of Nigg.

December 7.—A great disaster had occurred in the Black Sea. In a violent storm on the 14th ult. 35 transport vessels perished, and a war steamer was wrecked, with the loss of 144 men and the clothing for 40,000 troops. The condition of the army in the winter weather was beginning to excite severe criticism, and the meeting of Parliament was anticipated with mixed feelings.

Ibid.—Railway enterprise had led to differences with the Great North, but it is announced that these differences had been adjusted. The Great North was to retire from the ground west of the Spey, and the Inverness and Elgin junction became bound to push their line as far as that river.

Ibid.—A woman named Janet Fraser had been found dead on the Common between Fort-George and Campbelltown under circumstances that pointed to murder. A soldier named James Chandler was apprehended under suspicion, and committed for trial.



December 14 to 28.—These issues continue the news of the war, and give summaries of the debates in Parliament. It was in course of these debates that Mr Cobden and Mr Bright strongly denounced the war. On the 21st the editor has an article on the Knoydart evictions, the subject having been revived by local inquiries into the character of the removals and the conduct of the Parochial Board. The article is an indignant protest against the evictions and the policy pursued by the local authorities. In closing his criticisms, the writer says—"In the excitement of war the miseries of home must not be forgotten or neglected, and it rests with the public now whether the sequel of the Knoydart evictions is to be as painful an instance of the abuse of human law, as the removals themselves were an infringement of divine justice."



## No. XIV.

When the year 1855 opened, the country was greatly perturbed by the reports which were coming to hand of the condition of the British Army in the Crimea, exposed as it was to a severe winter without sufficient clothing or protection. In the House of Commons on 25th January Mr Roebuck gave notice of his intention to move for a Committee of Inquiry. Lord John Russell wrote to the Prime Minister saying that he did not see how this motion could be resisted, and tendering his resignation. This step paralyzed the Government, and on a division Mr Roebuck's motion was carried by a majority of 157. Thereupon Lord Aberdeen resigned, and after Lord John Russell and Lord Derby had each failed to form an administration, Lord Palmerston was called to the head of affairs. But the difficulty was not at an end. The new Prime Minister accepted the motion for an inquiry, while substituting a new Committee. Mr Gladstone, Sir James Graham, and Mr Sidney Herbert were opposed to an inquiry, and persisted in resigning. Sir Cornwall Lewis succeeded Mr Gladstone as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Lord John Russell returned to the Government as Colonial Minister in place of Mr Sidney Herbert. Lord Panmure (Fox Maule) combined in his own person the hitherto distinct functions of Secretary at War and Secretary for War.

Another dispute soon arose. A European Conference took place at Vienna, to which Lord John Russell had been accredited. On his return Lord John strongly condemned in the Commons the proposals made at Vienna. Thereupon the Austrian Plenipotentiary declared that at Vienna Lord John had approved of these very proposals. This Lord John admitted, but said he had since changed his opinion. Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton gave notice of a motion of want of confidence in Lord John, and the latter withdrew from the Ministry.

In March the Czar Nicholas died, and in June Lord Raglan, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in the Crimea, also passed away. He was succeeded by General Simpson. The south side of Sebastopol fell in September. This practically put an end to



the war, but our soldiers were obliged to spend another winter in the neighbourhood of Sebastopol. They were, however, comfortably clad and housed in wooden huts. Negotiations for peace continued during the rest of the year.

In August the Inverness Suspension Bridge was opened for traffic, and in November the railway was opened from Inverness to Nairn.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1855.

January 4.—The "Times" had begun its sweeping charges against the administration of the army in the Crimea, and public opinion was in an unsettled and angry state. The arrival of winter clothing, however, for at least a portion of the army, was to some extent reassuring.

*Ibid.*—A proposal to adopt the Public Libraries Act in Inverness was brought before a public meeting, but the attendance was so small that the motion was not proposed. More than twenty years had to pass before the Act was adopted. In 1855 it was stated that the penny rate in Inverness would yield only a sum of about £72 a year.

*Ibid.*—Quotations are given from an autobiography contributed to the "Gardener's Chronicle" by Mr Donald Beaton, a gardener who had done good work at Altyre and in the south of England. It is stated that when he was at Altyre the garden boy there was James Sinclair, who afterwards entered the service of Prince Woronzoff in the Crimea, where he laid out beautiful gardens, which were much admired by the allied armies when they went there.

January 11.—A report on plantations on the estate of Fairburn, by Mr Stewart-Mackenzie of Seaforth, received the gold medal of the Highland Society, and is published in this issue. The total extent of the plantations was 363½ acres, and the expenditure £389. "The profits from plantations," says the writer, "can only be looked forward to at a distant period; this more than any other cause impedes



their spread throughout the country. But though their profits are slowly realised, yet ultimately, with ordinary skilful treatment, they amply repay every outlay."

*Ibid.*—The small estate of Wester Newton, in the neighbourhood of Nairn, was sold by public auction. The property consisted of one farm of about sixty acres and 12 acres of firwood, and was purchased for £2340 by Mr Augustus J. Clarke of Acharaidh.

January 18.—A Scottish Judge, Lord Robertson, died the previous week. He was a friend of Lockhart, the biographer of Scott, and was famous for his wit and humour. It was Robertson who said to his fellow-advocates, when he saw the tall, conical white head of Scott approaching, "Hush, boys, here comes old Peveril. I see the Peak." When the witticism was reported to Scott, he retorted, "As well Peveril o' the Peak as Peter o' the Painch" (paunch), and the epithet stuck to the portly humorist. At the age of fifty Patrick Robertson came forward, to the surprise of his acquaintances, as a sentimental poet, and his caustic friend Lockhart privately circulated the still remembered epitaph—

"Here lies the peerless paper peer,  
Lord Peter,  
Who broke the laws of gods and men  
and metre."

As an advocate Robertson was an admirable and effective speaker, and both at the bar and on the bench displayed sagacity and sound judgment.

*Ibid.*—War steamers were at this time stationed in Cromarty Firth, and bodies of sailors, recruiting from the Baltic, were daily visitors to Inverness, driving about in an open omnibus, and otherwise filling the pockets of horse-hirers. Culloden Moor was a favourite place of resort. They were full of fun and frolic, and a source of great entertainment to the younger generation. "Yesterday a good-humoured battle took place on Petty Street; the tars bought a great quantity of turnips



and potatoes, with which they pelted a crowd of urchins through the whole street." There was, however, no violence or outrage.

January 25.—An ancient cairn had been opened by workmen at Guisachan, Strathglass. It contained a stone coffin and a quantity of moist earth and dust.

February 1.—The Right Rev. David Low, D.D., late Bishop of the Scottish Episcopal Church in Ross, Moray, and Argyll, died at Pittenweem on the 26th ult., in the sixty-seventh year of his ministry and the 35th year of his Episcopate. He was elected Bishop of Ross and Argyll, at Inverness, in 1819, and on the death of Bishop Jolly in 1838, the district of Moray was added to his diocese. Bishop Low made many benefactions to the church, and was a man greatly respected.

Ibid.—Lord John Russell had resigned office, and Mr Roebuck's motion for inquiry into the condition of the army before Sebastopol had been carried by a large majority. The result was the resignation of Lord Aberdeen as Prime Minister, and the reconstruction of the Government, with Lord Palmerston as Premier.

February 8 to 22.—The political crisis and discussions on the progress of the war fill up a large part of the space. The Militia had been embodied and billeted on the citizens, a practice which naturally caused annoyance. Sir Charles Napier, home from the Baltic, gave voice in an after-dinner speech to complaints of the Admiralty, and on the same occasion Lord Cardigan gave his account of the charge of the Light Brigade.

February 22.—North Uist had been purchased by Sir John Orde, Bart. of Kilmorey, "and thus," says a correspondent, "the whole of the Long Island has changed hands within the last quarter of a century."

Ibid.—Mr Brown of Dumbrexbill, a gentleman long connected with the Highlands, died the previous week at the age of 81. In his youth he had the management of the Clanranald estates, and afterwards of the Seaforth estates. In the Islands he



encouraged the crofters to grow flax, and established industrial schools. Latterly Mr Brown acted as commissioner for the Duke of Hamilton.

March 1.—This issue records the resignation of Sir James Graham, Mr Gladstone, and Mr Sidney Herbert, who retired from the Ministry rather than agree to the inquiry into the war administration proposed by Mr Roebuck, even although the censure implied in the motion had been modified by the nomination of a Committee selected by the new Government. The London correspondent refers to the rout of the Peelites, indulging in the following lines after the style of Sir Walter Scott:—

Vain was then the Gladstone brand,  
Vain Sir James's vaunted hand.  
Vain long Herbert's twist and quirk,  
Showing how he spoiled his work;  
Solemn Cardwell sped away,  
Sped their chieftain, stern Lord A.,  
And in triumph stood alone  
Henry, Viscount Palmerston.

"We have now," says the correspondent, "a pure blood Administration, and not a coalition. All the new men are Whigs and a little more." It was in the debate on this occasion that Mr Bright delivered his famous speech on the war. "The angel of death," he said, "has been abroad throughout the land; you may almost hear the very beating of his wings." The news from the Crimea, however, was now re-assuring, though the hospitals at Scutari were crowded. At home there had been severe frost and snow, but a thaw had set in. The issue records the death of Mr Joseph Hume, M.P., a man whose integrity and public services were acknowledged by all parties.

Ibid.—A great part of Armadale Castle, the seat of Lord Macdonald in Skye, was destroyed by fire on the 18th of February. The Castle had been erected about 1815 after a design by Mr Gillespie Graham.

Ibid.—Sergeant John Macpherson, of the 42nd Highlanders, died at Kingussie the previous month, in the 83rd year of his age. He served under Abercromby in



Egypt, and was wounded at Aboukir. He was body servant to Abercromby, and was one of the sergeants who accompanied his remains to Malta. Discharged in 1801, he drew a pension for fifty-four years. On his return to his native district, he was appointed head gamekeeper to the Duke of Gordon in Badenoch. It was to Sergeant Macpherson that Sir Robert Peel wrote and sent a present on the occasion of his last visit to the Highlands.

*Ibid.*—Extracts are given from Sir John M'Neill's report on the administration of the poor law in Glenelg, the result of an inquiry arising out of the Knoydart evictions. Sir John's report was favourable to the local authorities, but the editor holds that he was misinformed, and adduces evidence in support of his view. Sir John mentions that the change from crofting to sheep farming had brought an increase of revenue to the estate of £166 4s 11d, as compared with the average of the five years from 1847 to 1852. The editor points out that the years selected for comparison were chiefly years of famine, and says that the evictions were disgraceful, and could not be justified by any increase of rent to the proprietor.

March 8.—The sudden death of the Emperor Nicholas created throughout Europe "a mingled feeling of astonishment, awe, and hope." The war, however, went on under his successor, the Emperor Alexander.

*Ibid.*—A veteran officer, Lieutenant Kenneth Murchison, died on the 21st ult., at the age of seventy-eight. In his day he was "one of the handsomest and strongest men in the British Army." Mr Murchison was a native of Skye, and saw a good deal of service, but for many years conducted at Inverness the recruiting service of the 78th Highlanders. He had a family of five sons, who all became military officers, and his wife, who was a Miss Urquhart from Fort-George, also had four officer brothers.

*Ibid.*—The Rev. Alexander Fraser, Free Church minister of Kirkhill, had been sent out as chaplain to the Crimea. It is stated that after a few days' stay at Scutari he had gone to Balaklava.



Ibid.—The Provost of Inverness, Mr Sutherland, resigned office on account of pressure of business and growing infirmities.

Cordial tributes were paid to his services.

March 8 and 15.—A dispute was going on between the directors of the Inverness Royal Academy and the directors of the Inverness and Nairn Railway Company, the latter proposing to acquire or feu part of the Academy grounds for the purposes of their undertaking. The Academy directors offered to sell their whole buildings and grounds for the sum of £5000, but the railway company refused this offer, and served compulsory notices for a portion of the ground. Ultimately the difference was arranged by the Academy directors agreeing to feu an angle of their ground to the Company, at 4s per foot of frontage.

Ibid.—The Rev. Mr Macnaughton, Belfast, had declined to allow the call from the congregation of the Inverness Free High Church to be proceeded with, and the congregation now resolved to give a call to the Rev. W. Trail, Manchester. In a subsequent issue it is stated that in a single day over 540 names were adhibited to the call.

March 22.—Daniel Grant, Manchester, one of the "Cheeryble Brothers" immortalised by Dickens, died the previous week, his brother William having pre-deceased him in 1842. Their father was a Strathspey farmer, whose losses led him to seek employment in England, where the sons built up a great business. A Manchester paper, at the time of Daniel's death, declared that "the man does not live who can accuse the house of Grant Brothers of one single shabby transaction."

Ibid.—Letters are given from the Rev. Mr Fraser, Kirkhill, with particulars relating to his mission to the seat of war. He says that at Scutari there were 7500 patients, and the deaths while he was there were from 60 to 70 per night. Mr Fraser sends the names of men connected with Inverness who were in the Highland Brigade, and who were either in good health, sick, or convalescent. Most of them were well.



March 29.—The Governor of Gibraltar, Sir Robert Gardiner, had erected a monument in the Cathedral Church of Gibraltar in memory of his respected companion in arms, Major Rose of Kilravock. The following was the inscription on the monument—"Sacred to the memory of Brevet-Major John Baillie Rose of the 55th Regiment. Among the brave and honourable who fought and gained the ever-memorable battle of the Alma, on the 20th September 1854, he fell mortally wounded, and died on the following morning at four a.m." Major Rose was on the staff of Sir Robert Gardiner when at Gibraltar.

April 5.—Mr C. Lyon Mackenzie of St Martins was elected Provost of Inverness, in room of Mr Sutherland, resigned. The motion for Mr Lyon Mackenzie's election was made by Mr Mackintosh of Raigmore, and seconded by Bailie Andrew Fraser. The election was unanimous.

Ibid.—The London letter describes a dramatic performance given in behalf of Mr Angus B. Reach, who had been for many months disqualified for mental exertion. The writer, after a warm encomium on Mr Reach, says:—"His Inverness letter was always a labour of love; he struggled to write it when he had abandoned other work, and he persevered in seeking to frame it at a time when prudence warned him to repose. It was with reluctance that he acceded to the arrangement which transferred the work temporarily to the hand of a friend." This friend was Mr Shirley Brooks, and it was he and Mr Albert Smith who arranged for the dramatic performance, in which they received most willing assistance. Among the audience were the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, the Lord President of the Council, the Marchioness of Ailesbury, and nearly all the literary men of mark in London, including Dickens and Thackeray.

Ibid.—A fire occurred in the village of Auldearn in a house and shop occupied by one Robert Donaldson, who lost his life in the disaster. There was an explosion of gunpowder, which had been kept on the premises.

April 12.—There is news of the defeat of the



Russians in a desperate sortie which they made on the night of the 22nd March on the French camp before Sebastopol. Among the incidents of the siege, it is mentioned that "Sir Colin Campbell stops the grog of all his men who do not occasionally write home to their parents."

Ibid.—"We understand that the property of Strichen, in Aberdeenshire, has been sold by Lord Lovat for the sum of £140,000. It is said that this is from £20,000 to £30,000 beyond what it was valued at a few years ago, when it was offered in three several lots, but failed to attract purchasers."

April 19.—The Emperor and Empress of the French had arrived at Windsor on a visit to Queen Victoria. They met with an enthusiastic reception in their progress through London.

April 26.—The Vienna Conference had ended in the rejection by Russia of the demands of the Allies. "She will risk the consequences of the war rather than yield her preponderance in the Black Sea, and the negotiations are therefore at an end." The bombardment of Sebastopol was in progress.

Ibid.—Mr Robert Sinclair, Borlumbeg, Glen-Urquhart, died on the 5th inst. in the 68th year of his age. He had been for many years factor on the estate of Glenmoriston, and was held in great respect. "He possessed a rich fund of anecdote connected with the manners and customs of the Highlanders of bygone generations; and with their achievements from the times of Montrose and Dundee to the memorable episodes of the '15 and the '45."

May 3.—While the Emperor Napoleon was riding in the Champs Elysées, an Italian named Liverani fired a pistol at him from a distance of a few paces. The Emperor was not hit, and rode quietly forward. Much satisfaction was expressed that no attempt was made on his life during his visit to England.

May 10.—The Rev. William Trail was on this date inducted as minister of the Inverness Free High Church. The Rev. Mr Campbell, Petty, preached, and the new pastor received a hearty welcome.



**Ibid.**—The two regiments of Inverness-shire and Ross-shire Militia were under orders to occupy Fort-George. The Master of Lovat was gazetted captain in the Inverness-shire Militia. He was at the moment at Sebastopol, a spectator of the operations at the seat of war, but was expected home in a short time.

**Ibid.**—Five persons were drowned off the coast of Stoer, in Sutherland, by the swamping of a boat. The boat was overladen, and was filled and overturned by a heavy wave.

**Ibid.**—The London correspondent mentions that in the Sculpture Room at the Exhibition of the Royal Academy, the post of honour in the centre was given to a lovely group of children by Alexander Munro (Inverness.) Munro had no fewer than seven works in the Exhibition, among them a bust of Mr Gladstone. There were also some good busts by Park, including that of the French Emperor.

**May 17.**—A movement for the erection of a Lunatic Asylum at Inverness was in progress. Representations had been made to the Lord Advocate by local authorities, and a commission had been appointed to make enquiries. A Scottish Education Bill was before Parliament, but was meeting with strong opposition. It is stated Mr Cumming Bruce of Dunphail appeared to be acting as Conservative leader on Scottish questions.

**May 24.**—The Rev. John Mackenzie, Established Church clergyman at Williamston, in Glengarry, Canada, died on 21st April. He was a native of the parish of Urquhart, in Inverness-shire, and had laboured for thirty-five years in the country of his adoption. Mr Mackenzie was known as "The Father of the Church in Canada."

**May 31.**—News had come of the fall of Kertch, brought about by an expedition which sailed under the command of Sir George Brown. "Their very appearance was the signal of success. The Russians blew up their fortifications and fled, having also, in the fierce and savage spirit of their war policy, destroyed their magazines at Kertch, and sunk thirty vessels. An equal number of vessels has, however, fal-



len into our hands, with fifty guns, and the batteries on the coast at Kertch and Yenikale are now in our power. The sea of Azoff is thus in the occupation of the Allies, and the principal source whence the Russian army at Sebastopol derived their supplies has been cut off." A London newspaper compared Sir George Brown's exploit to that of Cæsar—"Certain it is that Sir George landed, saw, and conquered."

June 7.—The estate of Kilmuir, in Skye, was sold to Captain Fraser of Culbokie for £80,000.

Ibid.—One of the oldest generals in the British service, Sir William Macbean, died on the 24th ult., at Brompton. Born in 1782, he entered the army [it is stated] in his thirteenth year, and saw much service in Ireland, the Peninsula, and the Cape. Descended from a race of soldiers, he had a distant connection with Inverness, his great-grandfather, the Rev. Mr Macbean, having been one of the ministers of Inverness in the beginning of the eighteenth century. Sir William was colonel of the 92nd Regiment.

Ibid.—The newspaper Stamp Bill, which had been under discussion during the session, had now passed the House of Lords. It then became optional to print stamped or unstamped newspapers, the stamped copies, however, having the right to be retransmitted through the post-office. The "Courier," unstamped, was now to be had for 3½d per copy.

June 14.—Rapid progress is reported in the construction of the Inverness and Nairn Railway. The cuttings had been easy, except for a rather stiff piece of work on the estate of Raigmore, below Stoneyfield, about two and a half miles from Inverness. Underneath the gravel a bed of hard clay—the boulder clay of geologists—had been found, which required the free use of the pick-axe. Several large boulders of granite had been turned out, showing very decidedly the rubbing and high polishing to which they had been subjected by ice. In the sandy district of Petty, the materials cut through had been



open and loose, generally shingle or pure sand; "and in some places, such as at the Tom-Mhoit, an old Court-hill on the edge of the moss at Petty, the sand is so exceedingly small and light that the slopes will require to be sown with grass, silver-weed, and other binding plants, to keep them from slipping or being injured by the rain and winds."

*Ibid.*—One of the workmen employed by Mr Rose, Kirkton, at his farm on Culloden Moor, had recently discovered, at a place adjoining the scene of the battle, a pocket knife which bore every trace of being a genuine relic of the period of the '45. "It consists of a strong steel blade and a large steel pin, which was probably used for pricking the touch-hole of the musket. Both double into the handle by means of an excellent joint. The handle appears to be of common horn; it is handsomely ornamented with the brass of the same pale colour as the brass of which Highland ornaments of a much older date were usually formed. A brass plate is affixed to the end of the instrument, on which a seal appears to have been engraved, but the tracings are obliterated. Round the fastenings of the point is a star in brass very well executed. The workmanship and quality of the knife are very superior, and the relic is in excellent preservation."

*Ibid.*—A public meeting was held in Inverness to protest against militia billeting, and to recommend the erection of barracks.

*Ibid.*—The hunting trophies of Roualeyn Gordon Cumming had been removed from Inverness for exhibition in London. "The collection is probably the most extraordinary ever made by one individual; some idea of its extent may be formed from the fact that when removed last week by the Martello steamer, it was found to require three hundred barrels-bulk for the accommodation of the different articles."

June 21.—The Suspension Bridge over the Ness was now nearly finished, and it was understood that the cost, including the approaches, had exceeded the original estimate by not less than £6000. "According



to the Act of Parliament, Government made a grant of £7700, and advanced £10,700 by way of loan, to be repaid by an assessment on the counties of Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness. This, we presume, has all been spent, and £6000 in addition, making the whole cost of the bridge and the approaches £24,400."

**Ibid.**—Mr George Grant, of the firm of Messrs Gladstone, Wyllie, and Co., Rangoon, and third son of the late Rev. James Grant, of Nairn, died at sea on 22nd April. He was one of the earliest commercial pioneers in Burmah, but lived only to see his efforts successful and his work beginning to assume form and shape. It was believed that only one Englishman besides himself had visited Ava during the previous quarter of a century. Mr Grant was only thirty years of age.

**Ibid.**—A magistrate of Inverness, who had recently resigned, Bailie Angus Macbean, No. 15 High Street, was about to proceed to Canada West. Before his departure he was entertained to a public dinner in the Guildry Hall.—The same issue records that no fewer than forty-two whales went ashore at Sconser, in Skye, and were left by the tide on the beach. The largest measured about twenty-one feet in length, and the others averaged about sixteen feet.

**June 21 and 28.**—The failure of the London banking house of Strachan, Paul, and Co. (Sir John Paul was the best known partner) excited much comment. The liabilities were very heavy, and many prominent people suffered.

**July 5.**—A communication to the county of Inverness from the Commissioners of Highland Roads and Bridges showed that the cost of the Ness Suspension Bridge was even higher than the latest expectation. The figures submitted by Mr J. M. Rendel, C.E., gave the total amount "expended and to be expended to complete the bridge" at £27,057. The county had to bear its proportion of the extra cost. Mr Rendel's report stated that to render the bridge safe beyond all doubt, it had been deemed necessary "to lay its foundations so much below the level of the bed of the river,



that the intended deepening of the harbour on the one hand, and the violence of Loch-Ness on the other, should not scour the river at the new bridge to such a depth as to undermine the bridge works." The excavations went down twenty-three feet below high flood and spring-tide level. The expense had also been increased by the failure of two contractors.

*Ibid.*—The Mackintosh of Mackintosh had presented seats for the Ness Islands. He had also previously given a large donation of trees and shrubs for planting.

*Ibid.*—Mr James Loch, formerly M.P. for Sutherland, died the previous week. He was born in 1780, and was a member both of the Scottish and English bar. Mr Loch was commissioner for the Duke of Sutherland and for other great estates. He was the author of an "Account of the Improvements on the Marquis of Stafford's Estates in Stafford, Salop, and Sutherland."

*Ibid.*—The death of Lord Raglan, Commander-in-Chief in the Crimea, is announced.

July 12.—Mr Ross of Cromarty, who had been Provost of the burgh for some years, intimated his resignation, because he found that "by the articles of war, no officer in the army or militia, can legally hold any municipal situation." Mr Robert Ross, banker, was elected Provost in his room.

July 14 and 19.—These dates include the Wool Market Circular. The market was stiff, but for lambs and wedders there was a slight advance in prices, Cheviot lambs realising from £14 10s to £16 10s per clad score, and wedders from £29 to £31, a few exceptional cases bringing £35 and £36. In ewes there was a decline. For wool, however, there was a brisk demand, and prices were good. "Little business was done last year, and the highest price then obtained for Cheviot wool was 14s 6d per stone. This afternoon various lots have been sold from 17s to 18s 6d, and some as high as 20s. The bulk of the Sutherland wool may be quoted at 18s 6d, and the Inverness-shire and Ross-shire at 17s 6d." There were few transactions in black-faced stock.

July 19.—Lord John Russell had resigned



office on account of his speech relating to the Conference at Vienna.

Ibid.—An account is given of the plantations made at Reelig by the proprietor, Mr J. B. Fraser, who was a practical improver, as well as a traveller and author. He had planted not only fir and larch, oak and beech, but also on both sides of the picturesque Reelig burn, more delicate trees such as the turkey or evergreen oak, the Spanish chestnut, the hemlock pine, the black American spruce, and the silver and balm of Gilead Fir. Among shrubs were quantities of laurels, rhododendrons, yews, hollies, &c. Mr Fraser was also fond of the Cedar of Lebanon, which he planted in groups and single trees in his lawn and garden. Speaking generally of the North Highlands, the writer says—“Not sixty years ago, there were no plantations, except a few woods of sombre Scotch fir, and no drives or pleasure grounds, except round the castellated mansions of our feudal aristocracy. Now the reclaimed grounds of the arable farmer, and the wooded slopes which lead on the eye to the bare upland pastures, nearly divide, in many districts, the lower portions of the country into pretty equal but beautiful variegated sections. The larch and many species of the pine tribe now show themselves to be nearly as hardy as the native fir, and the homesteads of our enterprising farmers, partly at their expense, and partly by the wise expenditure of landlords, are becoming in many places as highly and richly decorated with trees and gardens as the seats of our older gentry.”

Ibid.—A great number of bottle-nosed whales, which had been moving about the Moray Firth, advanced up the Cromarty Firth, and were stranded about two miles from Dingwall. The number is given at 114, or according to another account 164. The whales varied from 12 to 20 feet in length.

Ibid.—An officer of the Royal Marines, Lieutenant Macintyre, died on the 30th of June at Inverness, where he had been resident for more than forty years. He



was born at Camusnacherie in Lothaber, and served in the war with France in the *Virginie* frigate, under Captain Brace. When placed on half-pay he settled at Inverness, of which he was made a burgess in April 1812. In a collection of Gaelic lyrics, the "*Filidh*," published about 1840, there were several pieces by Mr Macintyre under the signature of "*Cruachan*." By his special directions his remains were laid with those of his ancestors in the Isle of Mung, in Loch Leven.

July 26.—Notice is taken of a gradual improvement in the quality and variety of the vegetables exposed for sale in the Inverness market. The writer says:—"At present fruits and vegetables are sold in Inverness three or four times dearer than in England, and nearly six times higher than in the commonest villages on the Continent." The opening of the railway, it was hoped, would put an end to this costliness. A small sale was springing up in bouquets of flowers.

*Ibid.*—A bill for advancing a loan of £3000 for completing the Ness Bridge had passed through the House of Commons. Meanwhile the works were suspended for want of wooden blocks to finish the roadway. They were lying at Leith waiting for shipment. This leads to strong criticism, ending with the remark—"Every step with regard to this bridge seems doomed to misfortune or mismanagement."—Note is made of a party of visitors to Inverness "under the auspices of Mr Cook of Leicester."

August 2.—The scheme for the completion of railway communication by a line to connect the Inverness and Nairn Railway with the Great North of Scotland Railway was now launched. It was known as the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway. The Chairman was the Earl of Seafield, and the Deputy-Chairman the Marquis of Stafford.

*Ibid.*—A great storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied with torrents of rain, is reported from Skye. The river which flows from the Coolin Mountains rose into uncontrollable fury, and at Rhuendunan, the residence of Mr Hugh Macaskill,



carried away the garden wall and burst into the house in a stream three feet deep.

The inmates were rescued with difficulty.

August 9 and 16.—The stir and excitement at the opening of the shooting season are mentioned, the town being then more lively than it is nowadays with the arrivals and preparations. Rumours had been current that the severity of the winter and spring, and the return of disease among grouse, had all but ruined the prospects of the season, but these reports proved fallacious. "The quantity of grouse is not less than the average of years, and is scarcely below last season—an extraordinary one in sporting annals; while the maturity to which the young birds had attained in many instances exceeded our expectations." The season was memorable for whales. A large number appeared off the Lews, and 64 were captured at Back.

Ibid.—The Inverness Town Council was interested in the right of way in Godsman's Walk. One of the magistrates, Bailie Dallas, carried a motion for the preparation of a memorial on the subject. He gave an interesting history of the lands of Aultnaskiach and the footpath. Some fifty or sixty years before the lands belonged to the Duke of Gordon. They were, he said, comparatively valueless, but were occupied together with Aultnaskiach Cottage by an Englishman named Captain Godsman, who acted as factor for the Duke of Gordon. At that time, "and from time immemorial before it," there was a right of way for the citizens of Inverness to pass through the moorland, covered with whin and broom, to the lands of Drummond and Campfield, and towards Essich. To get rid of many footpaths, Captain Godsman made a walk, and fenced it with stones gathered from the fields. About forty-seven years prior to 1855 Captain Godsman died, and was succeeded in the occupancy of the lands and cottage by Dr Robertson, who subsequently purchased the property. At that time the path was open, but Dr Robertson, in concert with a solicitor, set about shutting it up. They first built a dyke



and placed a gate upon it, without a lock; then the gate came to have a lock upon it; and ultimately the gate was converted into a dead stone wall. This was the narrative on which the motion was adopted. Another member of Town Council revived the proposal for adopting the Free Libraries Act, but in the end the proposal was again found to be premature. The revenue of the town had first to improve.

**August 23.**—Queen Victoria with Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, went to France on a visit to the Emperor and Empress of the French. They travelled by way of Boulogne, and had a splendid reception. The Royal visitants made a State entry into Paris, and stayed with their hosts at St Cloud.

**Ibid.**—Mr Patric Park, sculptor, who was on a professional visit to Mr Pender of Spekehall, died at Warrington, in Lancashire, in his 44th year. When Mr Park was at the railway station, observing a porter struggling to lift a hamper of ice, he stepped forward to lend assistance, and in the effort burst a blood-vessel. Though the bleeding was staunch, it burst out afresh, and the effects proved fatal. The deceased was a native of Glasgow, and studied under Thorwaldsen at Rome. All the public journals spoke highly of his genius as a sculptor. His portrait busts were best known. Among those who sat to him were the Emperor Napoleon, the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Dundonald, Sir Charles Napier, Sir Harry Smith, and Alison, the historian. Mr Park was a son-in-law of the late Dr Carruthers.

**Ibid.**—The Suspension Bridge across the Ness was at last open for traffic. "Carriages and foot passengers have to-day (August 23) for the first time had a free passage across it, and throughout this week Mr Rendel has endeavoured to give every accommodation in his power to vehicles having occasion to cross the river. Now that the bridge is all but finished, we must do it the justice to say that it is by far the finest construction of the kind in the North of Scotland. The span is 225



feet, and the solidity and finish of the work are spoken of by all competent judges as unequalled in the Highlands, and unsurpassed anywhere." Six and a half years had passed since the stone bridge was swept away in 1849.

Ibid.—The estate of Mountgerald, near Dingwall, was purchased by Mr Mackenzie of Findon for £15,000.

August 30.—The Earl of Derby, the ex-Premier, paid a visit to the Duke of Richmond at Gordon Castle. He spoke at an agricultural dinner.

Ibid.—Mr Andrew Dougall, of the Dundee and Perth Railway, was appointed general manager of the Inverness and Nairn line. —At a public meeting in Inverness Mr Dallas's motion for the adoption of the Public Libraries Act was rejected.

September 6.—An account is given of the battle of Tchernaya, where the Russians attacked the French and Sardinians, but after a fierce conflict were driven back with great loss. The attack was partly a surprise, resembling the battle of Inkermann. The defeat of the Russians was largely due to the excellent service of the Sardinian artillery.

September 13.—News had come of the fall of Sebastopol. The French had succeeded in capturing the Malakoff, and though the British had failed to take the Redan, the town became untenable, and Sebastopol was evacuated during the night. Full details of the desperate fighting and the evacuation are given in subsequent issues. General Sir George Brown, who had returned from the Crimea owing to ill-health, was entertained to a public banquet at Elgin. He was the first general officer to mount his charger on the landing of the British troops in the Crimea, and one of the first on the heights of Alma. He was severely wounded at Inkermann, but returned to active service until ill-health compelled him to return home.

September 13 and 20.—The Northern Meeting is reported in these issues. The proceedings were of the usual kind, but it is stated that the attendance at the second ball was larger than on any similar occasion for a number of years.



September 27.—Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Brodie Campbell, formerly of the Bombay Army, died at Elgin on the 17th inst. He bequeathed £500 to build a school in the vicinity of Fornightly, parish of Ardelach, where he was born, and £2500 as a fund for perpetual endowment. To each of the parish ministers of Ardelach, Auldearn, and Cawdor he left a legacy of £100. Several legacies were left to private friends, and the residue of his fortune went for bursaries in King's College, Aberdeen, at from £10 to £20 per annum. Another paragraph states that the late Major Rose of Kilravock, who fell while leading the Light Company to the heights of Alma, was an enthusiastic horseman. He had left a manuscript, which had just been published in a small volume of fifty pages, entitled "Four Short Chapters on Horses, Hunting, and the Turf." The produce of the sale was to be paid over to the Soldiers' Infant Home.

Ibid.—Mr James Ross, Colombo, had collected the sum of £58 3s 9d from friends in Ceylon to assist in defraying the expense incurred in opening the Ness Islands to the public.

October 4.—An interesting article appears on the population of the Highlands. In view of the rather meagre enlistment of soldiers from the district, the question had been discussed by London and Scottish newspapers—one side maintaining that there had been depopulation, the other that the Highland counties had been increasing in a greater ratio than other Scottish counties. The writer in the "Courier" points out that, according to the census returns, there had undoubtedly been a large increase of population, but that important changes had taken place in the condition and distribution of the people, and that forty years of peace had made them less inclined to join the army. "The fact seems strangely omitted in all these discussions, that the difficulty of recruiting is felt all over the three kingdoms, and not merely in the Highlands." The decrease in Highland population, it may be observed, occurred after this period.



Ibid.—A short article on sport says:—"The season has been an excellent one for grouse-shooters, with a very few exceptions, and there has not been such havoc among the feathered tribes as to leave us without hope of as good sport next year. One of the best moors this season has been that of Sir Henry Wilmot and party, Carr-Bridge. Up to Saturday last they had bagged 2843½ brace of grouse, upwards of 300 hares, and other game in proportion." The deer forests had also yielded satisfactory results.

Ibid.—The Rev. Alexander Fraser, Free Church minister of Kirkhill, had been obliged to return from his work in the Crimea. He had suffered severely in health, but was recovering.

Ibid.—Mr Lachlan Cumming died at Hoy, near Thurso, in his fifty-sixth year. He had been Controller of Customs at the port of Inverness for twenty-five years, when he retired on a pension. He then took to business as an importer of guano, and afterwards rented the large farm of Ratter in Caithness. A man of active mind, and of great kindness and integrity, he had made many friends. Mr Cumming was a native of Caithness.

October 11.—Sir James Macgrigor, late Director of the Army Medical Department, wrote to Sir James Matheson suggesting the erection of some memorial to Assistant-Surgeon Thomson of the 44th Regiment, who fell a victim to his exertions in succouring the wounded, both British and Russian, after the battle of the Alma. Sir James sent the letter to Seaforth, to be brought before the Ross-shire County Meeting, and subscribed a sum of ten guineas for the proposed object. Surgeon Thomson was a native of Cromarty, and the meeting, having cordially approved of the proposal, asked Mr Ross, convener of Cromarty, to organise measures for raising the necessary funds and for determining the kind of monument to be erected.

October 18.—A public meeting was held in Inverness, the Provost in the chair, for the purpose of enforcing the propriety of the different Presbyterian congregations in



town holding the sacramental fast-days and observances at the same time. A change in dates had previously been made, which all the congregations, owing to some misunderstanding, did not accept. The question had evidently aroused public feeling, and the report extends to more than four closely-printed columns. Resolutions in favour of observing the fast-days at the same time were passed, and concurred in by the clergymen present.

*Ibid.*—The Highland Society of Scotland awarded a gold medal to Mr John Mitchell, factor for Seaforth, for a report of improvements on the estate at Arcan, in Ross-shire. A large extent of swampy land had been reclaimed and protected from the river by embankment. The operations, it was stated, had proved to be profitable.

October 25.—A correspondent sends particulars of Surgeon Thomson's work after the battle of the Alma. It appears that when the British Army was about to move away, 750 Russians were lying on the ground in agony and unfit for removal. Lord Raglan was averse to leave them without help, and Dr Thomson volunteered his services, although there was danger from prowling Cossacks. For many a week he laboured among the wounded, assisted only by a private soldier named Maccarthy, who acted as his servant. British ships appeared just in time to enable them to escape from a band of Cossacks who were approaching. Dr Thomson, however, had been able to rescue from death 340 men, who were full of gratitude, and were able to take ship for Odessa. He reached the British headquarters, but died of cholera next day, worn out by the hardships he had undergone.

*Ibid.*—Under a new Act Mr W. R. Grant, assessor, had completed the valuation of the county of Inverness. The estimated rental was £196,275. It is stated that a valuation was made for the Property Tax in 1814, which included the burgh of Inverness, and the total was then £152,078. This latter valuation included the rent derived from kelp, which at that period was at its highest price.



*Ibid.*—Mr Henry Cockburn Macandrew, afterwards so well known as a distinguished townsman, was on this date admitted a Procurator before the Sheriff and other Courts of Inverness.

*Ibid.*—On the 8th inst., during service, the roof of the parish church of Kintail partially gave way, causing great alarm to the congregation. Happily the falling roof rested on the sarking and plaster, and did not drop into the body of the church. The clergyman, Mr Morrison, by appealing to the people, averted a panic, and no one was injured, although the danger was more serious than any one at the moment knew. The church was a very old fabric, dating, it was believed, from pre-Reformation times.

November 1.—The amount collected for the Patriotic Fund in Inverness-shire was £2427 6s 10d, of which £571 16s was raised in the burgh and £1855 10s 10d in the county.

November 8.—On Monday, the 5th, the railway from Inverness to Nairn was opened. A great crowd gathered to see the first train start. There were two engines decorated with flags, and the stokers turned out in spotless white. "By noon everything was in readiness; the carriages were crammed by nearly 800 people, and the Provost and Magistrates with the directors, headed by Raigmore and Aldourie (their names, by the way, being appropriately bestowed upon the two locomotives), had taken their seats. The doors of the carriages were then closed, and after two or three whistles from either end of the train, Mr Dougall, the manager of the line, gave the final order to start, and in a moment the train was in motion. A couple of small guns were fired; a row of flags drawn across the opening were hitched some yards higher, and amidst deafening cheers the train launched forth upon its first trip." Next day there was a similar trip from Nairn to Inverness, of which between four hundred and five hundred persons took advantage. The line was regarded as being what it was, the beginning of through railway communication. A pro-



posals had been on foot for a branch line to Burghead, but this was abandoned.

*Ibid.*—The Hon. John Macgillivray, a native of Inverness-shire, died at Williamstown, Glengarry, Canada, at the age of 84. He had formerly been a partner in the Hudson's Bay Company, from which he retired with a competent fortune, and filled many offices in the colony.

November 15.—An amended prospectus of the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway Company was issued, the junction with the Great North to be at Keith. By abandoning the proposed branch line to Burghead, the Company had secured the co-operation of Morayshire and Nairn, which had previously opposed the scheme. The capital required for the extension from Nairn to Keith was put at £325,000. It was expected that steamers would run between Invergordon, Nairn, and Lossiemouth.

*Ibid.*—Mr Lyon-Mackenzie was re-elected Provost of Inverness, and Mr John Maciver, banker, was elected Provost of Dingwall, in place of Sir James Matheson, who had declined to be again nominated.

November 22.—A Council of War in the Crimea had decided that further operations against the enemy were to be abandoned during the winter, and that arrangements should be completed for the comfortable accommodation of the troops. The allied troops were in good winter quarters, and ample stores were daily pouring into the camps. In this district the Militia were still maintained at Fort-George, the battalion consisting of Forfarshire Artillery, Ross-shire Rifles, and some companies of the Inverness-shire Light Infantry. They had been in camp during the summer, but were now in barracks.

*Ibid.*—Mr Keith Thomson, music master, Inverness, died on the 17th inst., aged 83. "He was one of the gentlest and most amiable of men, retiring and unobtrusive; but as a teacher of music, a citizen, and elder of the Church, he was regarded with the highest esteem and respect. Mr Thomson was a half-brother of Mr George Thomson, the correspondent of Burns, and like



him was enthusiastically devoted to music. The magistrates of Inverness induced him to teach here, guaranteeing him a sum of £40 per annum; and arriving in 1795, Mr Thomson taught for the long period of sixty years."

November 29.—Mr Murdo Cameron, Town-Clerk of Dingwall, died on the 21st inst., in the 62nd year of his age. He had been Town-Clerk of Dingwall for twenty years, and took an active interest in the affairs of the burgh.

December 6.—The estate of Flichity, in the county of Inverness, had been purchased by Mr John Congreve, who had been a shooting tenant in Easter Ross for several years. The purchase price is not mentioned.

December 13.—A Hungarian band, consisting of eleven musicians, gave two concerts in Inverness in connection with the Mechanics' Institution. Their leader was named Kalozdy, and their performances excited great interest.

Ibid.—Mr Alexander Mactavish, Town-Clerk of Inverness, died on the 8th inst. in his fifty-sixth year. He was a native of Stratherrick, and had been Conservative agent for the county. Besides being a solicitor in good practice, he was an enterprising agriculturist. "He carried into the practice of the law the same active and fearless energy which he displayed as a sportsman or improving farmer among the hills, and as a political agent or leader at a public meeting he had few equals in the North. He was well versed in all local interests and affairs; as fluent in Gaelic as in English, fertile in resources and prompt in action. He was, indeed, a man of indomitable spirit and strong natural talent, capable also of close application and study, and possessing a considerable range of information on most subjects, fitting him equally for society and business."

December 20.—There is a notice of the death of Samuel Rogers, the poet (in his 93rd year), and also a notice of two volumes of Macaulay's History of England, with extracts from his account of Inverness and



the Highlands. As regards Macaulay's description of Inverness in 1689, the editor says:—"It is an error to suppose that there were even then no slated houses in the town. The old town residences of the neighbouring gentry, though few in number, were substantial buildings; and as Inverness had then nearly all the trade north of the Spey, some of the burghers enjoyed a share of substantial comfort and prosperity. Claret and brandy were cheap, game and fish could be had at a nominal price."

*Ibid.*—A short period of intense frost had been followed in some parts of the northern district by heavy rain and floods. In Lochbroom the rivers had risen to a height unexampled even by the flood of 1849, and bridges had been carried away.

*Ibid.*—It is noted that Inverness had so far advanced that it was deemed expedient to issue a local Directory. The compiler and publisher was Mr P. Grant, High Street, and the work was pronounced a full and correct local guide.—The issue gives an extract from a magazine describing Roualeyn Gordon Cumming and his exhibition in London.

December 27.—A public meeting in Tain adopted a resolution in favour of celebrating the New-Year holiday on the 1st of January instead of the 12th (old style) as formerly. The meeting also resolved to send a copy of the resolution to the ministers in Easter Ross, "requesting their co-operation in this desirable reform, by bringing the subject before their respective congregations." Another paragraph says that through the exertions of the Rev. Mr Cameron, Ardersier, the Justices of the Peace, ministers, farmers, and leading tradesmen in the Ardersier district had resolved to keep the 25th of December and the 1st of January as holidays instead of the old style. One of the speakers at the Tain meeting observed that Russia was the only great Power that adhered to the old style, and "that we ought to show that we were opposed to them on this as well as on other questions."



## No. XIV.

The war with Russia came to an end early in 1856. In January proposals suggested in Vienna were accepted as a basis of negotiation, and terms were arranged in a Congress at Paris. On the 30th of March the treaty was signed, and ratifications were exchanged on 27th April. The cost of the war to this country was over £50,000,000. At the time of its cessation Britain was in an exceptionally strong position for the continuance of the struggle, a fact ascribed to the vigour of Lord Palmerston.

There was little legislative business during the year. An attempt to establish the principle of life peerages was made in the case of Sir James Parke, who was created Lord Wensleydale without right of succession, but the proposal met with so much opposition in the House of Lords that the Government gave way, and Sir James was made a peer in the ordinary form. The crimes of William Palmer, a surgeon of Rugeley in Staffordshire, known in criminal annals as Palmer the poisoner, excited universal attention and indignation. There were also two sensational cases of fraud, one by a man named Robson, on the Crystal Palace Company, the other by Leopold Redpath on the Great Northern Railway Company.

The great event affecting the Highlands was the passing of the bill for the construction of the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway, connecting the short line to Nairn with the Great North of Scotland Company at Keith. This, by a roundabout way, was to give Inverness its first through railway communication.

*From the "Inverness Courier"*

1856.

January 3.—A paragraph states that shortly after the despatch from Lerwick of the Fairy R.M. packet, with the Shetland mails for Aberdeen, it was discovered that a letter belonging to a large firm had not been bagged with the rest of the mail.



"No sooner was the detention of the communication detected than the smack, Arthur Anderson, was at once engaged at twenty pounds for the run, to convey the document to the North of Scotland."

January 10.—Sir Alexander Mackenzie, eighth Bart. of Coul, died on the 3rd inst., at the age of fifty-one, his constitution having suffered from long residence in India. He retired from the Bengal Army in 1851, after an uninterrupted service of more than twenty-six years. Sir Alexander was not married, and his title and estates descended to his brother William, born in 1806.

Ibid.—The estate of Dalmore was purchased by Mr Matheson of Ardross, M.P., the purchase price being given as about £24,700. The estate of Loch-Shiel, in the district of Moidart, was sold by the proprietor, Mr Macdonald, to Mr Hope Scott of Abbotsford for £24,500.

Ibid.—Ensign Æneas Macdonell, second son of the late Macdonell of Glengarry, was drowned, along with several companions, in the Medway. He was in the Bengal Engineers, and was only twenty years of age. John Fraser, son of the late Rev. Thomas Fraser, of Inverness, died at Colombo in the previous October. He had resided in Ceylon for many years as Under-Secretary for the Island.

January 17.—The Rev. Alexander Fraser, of Kirkhill, gave in a lecture an interesting narrative of his sojourn in the Crimea as one of the Presbyterian chaplains of the Army. Mr Fraser bore testimony to the mild and courteous bearing of Lord Raglan and to his popularity in the Army; and he mentioned that Sir Colin Campbell, before the attack on the Redan, sent for the chaplains that they might be ready to administer consolation to the wounded and dying after the assault.

January 24.—James Baillie Fraser of Reelig, widely known as an accomplished Eastern scholar and traveller, and also as an author, died at his residence, Moniack, on the 23rd inst. Born in June 1783, he was in his seventy-third year. Mr Fraser went



early to the West Indies, but after a short residence there turned to the East, and became partner in a mercantile house in Calcutta. A love of adventure, however, led him to travel. Coming home about 1822, he married Jane, daughter of Lord Woodhouselee, and sister of the late Sheriff Fraser-Tytler. Mr Fraser again visited the East, and was employed in a diplomatic mission, in course of which he rode from Constantinople to Ispahan, the fatigues and hardships of the journey giving the first shock to his vigorous constitution. When the Persian princes visited this country he was requested by Government to accompany and take charge of them, and on their return he went with them as far as Constantinople. Latterly, Mr Fraser became a zealous improver of his Highland estate, adding to the beauty of its woodlands and its fine gardens. Mr Fraser was the author of numerous works of Eastern travel and adventure. The best known is a fictitious narrative, "The Kuzzilbash, a tale of Khorasan," in which he describes the life and manners of the Persians. This is reckoned his best work. It was reviewed and praised in the "Quarterly Review" by Sir Walter Scott. Mr Fraser was also an accomplished artist, especially in water-colours. The editor in his notice recalls that one of Reelig's brothers, William Fraser, was Commissioner in Delhi, where he was assassinated by a native prince in 1835. An interesting account of this affair is given in "Blackwood's Magazine" for January 1878, written by Lord Lawrence, who was tenant of Reelig in 1877.

*Ibid.*—The issue records a calamity which occurred the same week at Dingwall at a private dinner party in the house of the Provost of Dingwall. Three of the party (two Roman Catholic priests and a neighbouring proprietor) took ill in course of the dinner, and within a short time expired. Others were affected, but recovered. It turned out that a servant who had been sent by the cook to the garden for radish for the roast-beef took monkshood root by mistake, and this formed the sauce. The plant is virulently poisonous.



Ibid.—The “Times” correspondent at the war pays a tribute to Dr Macpherson, son of Mr Macpherson, at one time factor for Lord Lovat, for his services to the Turkish contingent in the Crimea. Dr Macpherson, who had served in India, organised the medical staff, and checked the ravages of cholera.

January 31.—Two very large tracts of heath and a considerable extent of wood, the property of Lochiel, were burned on either side of Loch-Arkaig. The fire swept over three square miles of heath, and consumed many acres of the fine old pine forest of Guisach. Investigation was going on as to the origin of the fire.

Ibid.—A European Conference to discuss terms of peace was about to assemble at Paris. The following paragraph from the London letter affords curious reading nowadays:—“Prussia’s desire to come into the Conference had been chiefly opposed, it is said, by England, but will be achieved. I seem to hear Lord Palmerston in his place in the House justifying it with a sort of good-natured contempt, and some commonplace about ‘an important kingdom,’ and a wish that Europe should be unanimous in the arrangement now meditated.”

February 7.—Parliament had assembled on 31st January, and the Queen’s Speech announced that conditions had been agreed upon between the Allied Powers and Russia, which would prove, it was hoped, the foundation of a general treaty of peace.

February 14.—The office of Town-Clerk of Inverness had become vacant through the death of Mr Mactavish. The Town Council now elected Mr Alexander Dallas, solicitor, to be Town-Clerk, and Mr Charles Stewart to be law agent, the two functions being separated. Mr Dallas had been previously a member of Town Council and a magistrate, but had resigned on the occurrence of the vacancy.

Ibid.—Mr David Gray, Professor of Natural Philosophy in Marischal College, Aberdeen, died a few days before. The deceased was a native of Kirkcaldy, where



his father was minister of the Original Secession congregation. He studied at Edinburgh, and became Mathematical Master in Dollar Academy, which he held from 1833 to 1837, when he was appointed one of the Professors of King's College, New Brunswick. After returning to this country he became Rector of Inverness Royal Academy, and in 1845 was appointed by the Crown to the Professorship in Marischal College. Mr Gray, says the paragraph, had been a most efficient and successful teacher in Inverness, and continued to take a warm interest in the town.

*Ibid.*—Mr Chas. Urquhart Stuart, third son of the late Dr Stuart of Grantown, died on the previous November while on his way from Bloemfontein to Harrismith, in South Africa, to hold a Circuit Court. Mr Stuart had been for many years in Ceylon, where he was for some time a member of Council. He then went to South Africa, where he was appointed by Sir Harry Smith resident judge at Bloemfontein.

February 21.—Mr John Cameron, Corrychoillie, a well known and extensive sheep farmer, died suddenly on the 16th inst. in his 75th year. His strong individuality of character made him a conspicuous man in the Highlands. At one time he was the largest holder of live stock in the Highlands, probably in Scotland, owning between 40,000 and 50,000 sheep. As he said, he did not know the exact number to a few thousands. Shortly before his death he stated that he had "stood" the three yearly Falkirk trysts, and the two Doune fairs, for fifty-five years without missing a single market. Latterly Mr Cameron had given up many of his farms, retaining little more than the one from which he derived his cognomen, and the farm adjacent to it; but he purchased a small estate in Stirlingshire, and one in Skye. Riding was his only mode of travel, and he often rode long distances. Corrychoillie had the reputation of being a kind and considerate friend of dealers and crofters, and was very hospitable to friends.

*Ibid.*—The Rev. John Mackinnon, parish



minister of Strath in Skye, died on the 16th inst. in the seventieth year of his age. He was ordained as minister of Sleat in 1812, and was appointed assistant and successor to his father as minister of Strath in 1825. Mr Mackinnon was greatly respected in Skye, and well known to the visitors of those times, whom he liberally entertained. "All his visitors became his friends, and carried away with them a lively recollection of the well-stored mind and cultivated taste of their hospitable entertainer. Several of Mr Mackinnon's family have distinguished themselves in various parts of the world. One is now a medical officer with the Army in the Crimea, and was publicly thanked by the Duke of Cambridge for his conduct at the Alma; another is joint-proprietor and editor of the "Melbourne Argus," probably the most respectable and widely circulated of our colonial journals. One is minister of the Gospel at Fearn; and several have carried the skill in sheep-farming, acquired in the West Highlands, to the farthest corner of our colonies." Mr Mackinnon's father, who was also minister of Strath, died in 1831 in the 96th year of his age and the 62nd of his ministry.

*Ibid.*—General Patrick Grant, afterwards Sir Patrick Grant, had been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army. There was some jealousy in the British staff at home, because an Indian officer had been selected for the appointment, but the feeling was apparently confined to a few in high places. "In General Grant's case, the right man is certainly in the right place. He has seen six-and-thirty years' hard service. During thirteen years he was really the Adjutant-General of the Bengal Army, and for about half that time he held the chief place in his department. That the military affairs of the Bengal Presidency were never more efficiently conducted than under his management, is well known to all who had opportunities of judging, both at home and abroad. We may add that he is the first Commander-in-Chief of an Indian Army who could speak the language of the country—obviously an advantage of no small moment."



February 28.—The militia authorities had acquired a site for barracks on the north side of Telford Road, on a feu from Mr Matheson, M.P. They had previously contemplated a site above Godsman's Walk.

March 6.—A humble old woman, named Margaret Munro, was found dead in her cottage in Obsdale, near Alness, under circumstances that clearly implied murder. She was believed to possess a little money, which she kept in the house. The public authorities were busy making investigation.

Ibid.—Mr Falshaw, of the firm of Brassey and Falshaw, contractors for the construction of the Inverness and Nairn Railway, was entertained to a public dinner in Nairn. Mr Falshaw had assisted in local affairs, and exerted himself to get up a company to supply water to the town. The firm had also become contractors for a considerable portion of the proposed line to Keith.

March 13.—Objections had been taken to the settlement of a presentee to the parish of Urray, and the Presbytery of Dingwall met on this date to hear the debate by agents, and to determine. The Presbytery resolved to sustain the call. In course of the preliminary discussion, Mr Stewart, solicitor, agent for the presentee, said that "Urray was strictly a Highland parish; the population was principally Gaelic, ninety-nine out of a hundred speaking that language, and the bulk of them that language only." It would be interesting to know how many in the parish, little more than fifty years afterwards, now speak the Gaelic language. It seems that the chief objectors to the presentee were not Highlanders.

Ibid.—A movement was on foot to erect a monument to the memory of Duncan Ban Macintyre, the Gaelic poet. The "Courier" acknowledges receipt of £19 8s for the fund, sent from Mr Angus Cameron, Hobart Town, Tasmania, as "a cheerful offering of a few Highlanders resident in the colony."

March 13 and 20.—At St Paul's Episcopal



Church, Edinburgh, on the 12th inst., Mr Mackintosh of Raigmore was married to Grace Ellen Augusta, youngest daughter of the late Sir Neil Menzies of Menzies. The marriage was celebrated by the tenantry and friends at Raigmore, Strathdearn, and in other localities by bonfires and entertainments. "The Culloden tenantry also commemorated the joyous event, and The Mackintosh (now resident in Inverness) gave directions that a bonfire should be lighted at Moy, and refreshments distributed among the people. It may be truly said that none of our proprietors can be personally more popular than Raigmore."

March 20.—The birth of a Prince Imperial excited joy in France. "The Bonaparte dynasty may now be perpetuated—an heir at least has been vouchsafed—and this event, calling forth the generous feelings and chivalrous sentiments of the nation, has fixed still more firmly the Emperor Louis Napoleon on his throne." The war of 1870 and the sad fate of the Prince Imperial in South Africa were in the distant future.

March 27.—Mr Waterston, manager of the Caledonian Bank, had received a sum of £20 from Australia, in aid of the Ness Islands Improvement Fund. The sum was collected and transmitted by a former townsman, Mr Donald Urquhart, Melbourne. The paragraph states that the Island bridges were now in excellent repair, and that only a few more subscriptions were necessary to place the grounds in a satisfactory condition.

Ibid.—An ancient cairn had existed on the farm of Easter Gelford, in Nairnshire, measuring from 150 to 180 feet in circumference, and enclosing, it is stated, stone coffins and clay urns. Comment is made on the fact that the stones were blasted and removed in order to turn the spot to account for agricultural purposes. Nothing appears to have been preserved.

April 3.—Peace was concluded with Russia, and we are told that the announcement was "so fully and confidently expected" that it excited less emotion than the great-



ness of the event seemed to demand. At Inverness the bells were rung, and in the evening the pupils of the Academy got up a bonfire in the playground. At Fort-George the Forfarshire Artillery turned out, and fired a salute of 101 guns. "The salute was fired in seventeen minutes, and competent judges say that no line regiment could have done it better." At a later date there were local rejoicings.

April 10.—Lord Saltoun, the owner of Ness Castle and adjacent grounds, on the banks of the River Ness, had resolved to establish a pheasant preserve and raise a stock of deer. To enable him to carry out these changes he had ordered thirty-two persons to quit their holdings. The "*Courier*" condemned this scheme, and urged Lord Saltoun to reconsider it.

Ibid.—The Inverness Town Council conferred the freedom of the city on General Patrick Grant, on his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army. The ceremony took place in the Town Hall. The same issue announces that Lieut.-General Sir George Brown had been promoted to the rank of General, in recognition of his distinguished services in the Crimea and while commanding the troops employed in the successful operations against Kertch.

Ibid.—A week or two before a large stone was discovered in the river, bearing the names of the Provosts and Magistrates associated with the founding of the old stone bridge in 1681, and with its completion in 1685. The stone had fallen with the bridge in the flood of 1849, and was found when workmen were blasting the stumps of the temporary wooden bridge. "From the peculiar position of the stone in the old bridge, few were familiar with its contents; it stood above the centre arch facing the west, and could not be read except with great difficulty, by persons standing on the bridge. The stone is a large slab, of Elgin freestone, of a peculiarly hard texture." The Provost in 1681 was Alexander Dunbar of "Barmucate," and the Provost in 1685 John Cuthbert of Drakies. The architects were James Smith, father



and son, from Forres. The stone is now on the stair of the Free Library buildings.

Ibid.—The congregation of the Free High Church were making an effort to clear off the debt on the building. "The debt amounts to about £1700. Nearly the half of this amount was subscribed in course of yesterday and to-day."

April 10 and 17.—The new Suspension Bridge over the Ness had now been formally handed over to Mr Joseph Mitchell on behalf of the Commissioners for Highland Roads and Bridges. The net cost of the work amounted to £25,365 1s 1d, and the sum raised to meet the cost was £26,133 1s 9d, leaving a credit balance of £770. A report on the subject is given by Mr Rendel.

April 17.—Mr Macdonald, a native of Fort-William, had been appointed sub-manager of the "Times." Mr Macdonald was previously on the staff of the paper, and had earned cordial praise by his administration of relief funds in the Crimea.

Ibid.—An enterprising ship-owner, Captain Lawrence, who had long taken a lead in the shipping of Inverness, died on the 11th inst. "He has been for about thirty years connected with Inverness, and has always been esteemed a highly honourable and generous citizen."—A schooner, of about 200 tons burden, was launched at Nairn for Mr Hugh Mann. She was named the Mary and Elizabeth.

Ibid.—A dinner was held at Banavie on the 5th inst., on the occasion of Lochiel attaining his majority. "The chair was taken by Sir Duncan Cameron of Fassfern, Bart., who, though upwards of eighty years of age and of infirm health, travelled twenty miles to be present, and discharged the duties of president with great spirit and cordiality."

April 24.—Lord Saltoun writes to explain the changes on his estate. He says that thirteen or fourteen of the persons warned out were persons in his own employment, who were merely changing their houses, and who would in future have no rent to pay; that eight or ten were paupers, for whom he was making provision better than



they formerly possessed; and that the remaining four were either crofters who had not implemented their engagements, and whose crofts were better suited for planting than for agriculture, or "depredators and plunderers whose handiwork was patent to any one passing through the woods on the estate, and whose eviction would be a good riddance to any property."

*Ibid.*—Lieutenant Cowell, R.E., had been appointed tutor to Prince Alfred. Mr Cowell was educated at Inverness Academy and the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. In the Crimea he was appointed aide-de-camp to Sir Harry Jones, and on his return acted as private secretary to Sir John Burgoyne at the War Department.

May 1.—Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Gairloch was appointed convener of the county of Ross.

May 8.—The Rev. James Grant, parish minister of Cromdale, died on the 2nd inst. He was ordained in 1830, and after the Disruption retained a large congregation. On a recent occasion nearly 400 persons partook of the Communion.

May 15 to 29.—The contents of these issues are mostly of a general character. Considerable space is given to the trial of Palmer, the poisoner. The Inverness-shire Militia were disbanded, but before this happened they were marched in to Inverness and billeted on the citizens. A movement was on foot for a new cemetery in Inverness, various sites being suggested. Further improvements were being carried out on the Ness Islands. The Rev. David Carment, Free Church minister of Rosskeen, died on the 26th inst., at the age of 84, and in the 57th year of his ministry. He was a man of great vigour and independence, and carried almost his entire congregation with him at the Disruption. Mr Carment was a native of Caithness, and acted from 1803 to 1810 as assistant to Mr Calder, of Croy. He was then called to Duke Street congregation, Glasgow, and in 1822 was translated to the parish of Rosskeen. In 1852 the Rev. Mr Fraser was appointed his colleague and successor.



June 5.—Although the Militia were disembodied, from twenty to thirty men of the permanent staff were billeted in public-houses in Inverness. The cost, it was expected, would be defrayed from the burgh rates, and the editor protests strongly against this fresh burden. "The members of the staff are for the most part tradesmen or pensioners, having wives and families, and having long rented houses in Inverness. Why they should not be obliged to find permanent lodgings for themselves, without help from the inhabitants, it is not easy to understand."

June 12.—An unknown friend of the Northern Infirmary presented the house with an invalid chair, which he said had belonged to the late Samuel Rogers, the poet. The sender paid the freight and conveyance, amounting to £1 1s. The following was the note announcing the gift:—"The packages referred to in the enclosed receipt contain an invalid chair, with iron poles, which belonged, and was an inestimable comfort, to the late Samuel Rogers, Esq., and which a friend to the Infirmary has much pleasure in sending for the use of that institution. It will be observed that freight and all charges to the door of the institution are paid. London, 7th June 1856." There was no signature.

Ibid.—Lieutenant-General Duncan Macleod, late of the Bengal Engineers, youngest son of the late Donald Macleod of Geanies, died at Brighton on the 8th inst. He had carried out several very extensive and important engineering works in India, and retired from the service of the East India Company with honour and distinction.

June 19.—Two licence-holders in Inverness were fined under the Forbes Mackenzie Act, one for allowing a ball in his house given by the Militia officers, another for allowing an entertainment to the sergeants of the regiment. In both instances the proceedings were protracted beyond eleven o'clock. Apparently special licences were not provided for at the time. There was also a threat to prosecute a hotel-keeper because the Provost had accepted an invitation from the Circuit Judges to dine with them on Sunday.



June 26.—Mr John Bright, M.P., was staying at the Union Hotel, Inverness. His health was not good, and he was instructed to refrain as much as possible from reading and writing. Mr Bright was on his way to Lairg, where the Earl of Ellesmere had placed his shooting-lodge at his service. Prince Napoleon of France had also passed through Inverness, with a party of friends, bound on a scientific expedition to Iceland.

July 3.—“Twenty years ago, a mail coach was placed on the Highland Road, chiefly through the exertions of Mr Edward Ellice, jun., M.P., and after much resistance on the part of the Postmaster-General, who calculated that he would lose £300 a year by having a coach on this line as well as on the coast or Aberdeen road. There was a considerable loss, or rather additional cost, but there was also great public convenience and increased despatch. The extension of railways, however, has altered this state of things. The mail bags are now to be sent by Aberdeen, the coach taken off the Highland Road, and a mail bag for local postal communication substituted. The bags will be conveyed between Inverness and Nairn by the railway, and the Aberdeen mail-coach will not come further north than Nairn. In less than two years the railway communication will be complete between Inverness and Aberdeen, and then the last of the mail-coaches will disappear in all but the counties north of our Highland Capital. On Monday next the mail-coach will be withdrawn from the Highland Road, but the same day the ‘Duke of Wellington’ day coach commences to run for the summer and autumn months.”

Ibid.—The Mackintosh of Mackintosh had enlarged the holdings of Bohuntine, in Lochaber, by adding to them the farm of Achavaddy. The tenants held a holiday to celebrate the event.

Ibid.—On the 1st inst. Sir Colin Campbell received the freedom of the city of Glasgow, and a sword of honour, subscribed for by contributions limited to one shilling. A good many contributions came from the Highlands.



*Ibid.*—The crinoline had come into use as part of ladies' dress. A sarcastic writer describes a drawing-room as like a camp. "You see a number of bell tents of different colours, the poles sustaining them appearing at the summit."

July 10.—An old woman, a pauper, in North Uist, living in a cottage about fifteen miles from Lochmaddy, had been found dead in bed with marks of strangulation on her neck. Another woman was arrested on suspicion of having committed murder.

*Ibid.*—An Inverness soldier. Colour-Sergeant Henry Macdonald, of the Sappers and Miners, received an annuity of £20 for distinguished service and gallant conduct in the field. His special service consisted in beating back a Russian night attack on the rifle pits during the early part of the siege of Sebastopol, when the officers in command had been either killed or wounded.

*Ibid.*—Mr Brownlow North was beginning his career as an evangelist. He preached in the hall of the Mechanics' Institute, Forres, on the 8th inst.

July 12 and 17.—These issues included the Wool Market. The market was stiff. Wool was quoted as from 2s to 2s 6d per stone above the previous year's prices. In sheep there was no reduction on the best wedders, and some showed an advance, but many were a shade lower, and on ewes and lambs there was a fall of from 1s to 2s 6d. The sales appear to have been fewer than usual.

July 17.—The bill for the construction of the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway had passed the Committee of the House of Lords, this being the final stage. In both Houses the bill had encountered opposition on questions of compensation raised by the Duke of Richmond. The House of Lords awarded the Duke £2500 for probable loss on tolls on the Bridge of Spey.

*Ibid.*—Charles St John, author of "Wild Sports in the Highlands" and other works, died at Woolston, near Southampton, on the 12th inst. During his residence at



Aldourie, on the banks of the Ness, and subsequently in Morayshire, he had endeared himself to a large circle of friends. His works are characterised as possessing in an equal degree fine taste and feeling, and accurate and extensive knowledge. "To his fluent and graceful pen we were indebted for many contributions; for no natural phenomena in the scenes around him, and no trait of animal life, escaped his observation; and he was as liberal in communicating as he was active in acquiring his various stores of information."

Ibid.—The ministerial jubilee of the Rev. James Kennedy, of Fraser Street Congregational Chapel, was celebrated by a public meeting and presentation. Mr Kennedy had been twenty years in Perthshire and thirty in Inverness. His son, the Rev. John Kennedy, A.M., London, long a well-known minister, was present at the celebration.

July 24.—The discussion on a proposal for a new burial ground for Inverness had resulted in postponement. It seemed clear, however, to the editor that a new cemetery was required, and that this would not be disputed except for the dread of an assessment.

August 8.—The issue of the "Courier" was postponed for a day in order to provide a full report of the show of the Highland and Agricultural Society, held at Inverness. The show opened on Tuesday, 5th inst., and closed on Friday, and the report occupies twelve closely-printed columns. Although the total head of stock numbered 1047, showing an increase of 41 on the previous Inverness show, held in 1846, there was a considerable falling off in cattle, which numbered only 248, as compared with 428. The explanation was that a change in the Society's arrangements shut out several important districts, such as Ross and Caithness. The great business of these counties was the raising of cross cattle, and the Society did not in 1856, as in 1846, offer premiums for crosses. In all other classes—horses, sheep, swine, and poultry—there was an



increase, in sheep and poultry a large increase. There was also a large exhibition of implements. The show was reckoned a great success.

*Ibid.*—Mr William Fairbairn, C.E., the eminent engineer, was presented with the freedom of the burgh of Dingwall. In acknowledging the honour Mr Fairbairn attributed a large measure of his success to the instructions of a respected tutor, the late Mr Donald Fraser, of the Parish School of Munlochy.—The first statutory meeting of the shareholders of the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway Company was held at Inverness, with the Hon. T. C. Bruce in the chair. It was reported that the work of construction had already begun.

August 14 and 21.—General Gordon of Lochdubh, C.B., died on the 11th inst., at the age of 87. "To the end of his long distinguished career, he was an active and enthusiastic man, who took an active part in the affairs of Nairn, where he has long resided, and was a keen politician. The gallant General has no less than six sons in the Queen's service and that of the East India Company." General Gordon entered the Army in 1794. He served first in Holland, and was in the Walcheren expedition in 1809; in the Peninsular War he was at the battles of Fuentes d'Onor, Vittoria, the Nive, etc. At Vittoria he was severely wounded in the left arm, and at the Nive he was also severely wounded, and had his horse shot under him. For his gallant conduct on this occasion he obtained the thanks of Lord Hill, and was raised from the rank of Major to that of Lieutenant-Colonel. By subsequent promotions he obtained the rank of Lieutenant-General.

August 21.—Mr James Bremner, engineer, Wick, died in his 72nd year. He was born at Keiss, in Caithness, and by native genius and sagacity acquired a remarkable position. In course of his life he built fifty-six ships, and planned or built nineteen harbours. In raising sunk and wrecked vessels Mr Bremner obtained a special reputation. The number of ships thus saved by him was stated at 236, in-



cluding the "Great Britain," which he assisted to take off the strand in Dundrum Bay in 1847.

August 28.—A scheme for assisting crofters in Skye with fishing boats had been in existence for some years. It originated with the Rev. Dr Fletcher of London and the Rev. Mr Adam in Portree, and the funds had hitherto been procured chiefly by Dr Fletcher, Miss Bird, and Mr Burn Murdoch. No less than forty boats had been supplied at a cost of upwards of £300. The recipients had repaid £130. A local society was now formed to forward the enterprise.

September 4.—Sportsmen appeared to be agreed that the grouse season was the worst that had been experienced for many years. A correspondent from Ross-shire wrote:—"The grouse are so scarce and diseased that we have given up shooting. Every person ought to do the same, else there will be none left to breed for next year." The forests, however, were doing well.

September 11.—The Royal British Bank, a London enterprise, founded by Mr Hugh Innes Cameron, had suspended payment. The event caused great excitement in the city.

Ibid.—Mr W. Falconer, son of Mr Falconer, Croy. was appointed rector of the Nairn Academy.—A paragraph mentions that the celebrated lady painter, Rosa Bonheur, attended the Falkirk Tryst, and bought two blackfaced ewes and two wedders.—Among the arrivals in Inverness was Mrs Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," who was on her way to Dunrobin.

September 18 and 25.—A movement was on foot for the construction of an Inverness and Ross-shire railway. One party, however, was meantime in favour only of a line from Invergordon to Tain, as there was a prospect of steam ferry-boats being established between Nairn and Invergordon.

September 25.—Mr Thomas Carlyle was on a visit to Lord Ashburton, at Kinlochluichart, Ross-shire.

Ibid.—Mr Anderson, tenant of Meikle Tar-



rell, in Easter Ross, appears to have been the first to introduce a reaping machine into the North. Many farmers gathered to see the work, which was considered highly satisfactory. The machine, it is stated, cut down twenty-five sheaves per minute, equal to 15,000 sheaves in a day of ten hours.

*Ibid.*—A woman named Catherine Beaton was tried at the Circuit Court on a combined charge of murder and theft. The charge arose from what appeared to be the murder of a pauper woman in North Uist. The jury found the charge of murder not proven, but convicted the prisoner of theft, and the presiding judge imposed a sentence of six years' penal servitude.

October 2.—At the Northern Meeting, held the previous week, the weather was very unfavourable, with cold wind and incessant rain. The balls, however, were never better attended. Several foreigners were present, who were "much struck by the novelty of the scene, and by the character of the Highland dancing."

*Ibid.*—Workmen engaged in digging a drain on the farm of East Grange, Morayshire, turned up a piece of brass, which some persons believed to be the head of a Roman spear. It was 7 inches in length,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches broad at the point, and one inch square at the centre. It is noted that the late Rev. John Grant, minister of Elgin, in a communication to the Societies of Antiquaries of Edinburgh, dated 1792, reported the finding of similar antiquities at Inshoch. Possibly archæologists of the present day would consider these relics to belong to the bronze age.

October 9.—Mr George Middleton, Fearn, one of the largest farmers in Ross-shire, died on the 29th ult., at the age of fifty-four. A correspondent says that Mr Middleton not only farmed his own lands to perfection, but by his counsel and even by his personal superintendence, farmed thousands of acres belonging to others in the district. "The amount of wealth created in Easter Ross by that one man, by his advice, by his example, is perfectly incalculable."



October 16.—The London correspondent writes that Lord Palmerston had given a grant of £100 “for the benefit of your townsman, the gentleman who preceded me as your London correspondent, from whom, I regret to say, the power to exert his once brilliant faculties is still withheld by the dispensation of Providence.” The writer adds that the influence of Mr Thackeray had been exercised to procure the grant for Mr Reach.

Ibid.—The estate of Little Garve, the property of Sir James R. Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, was purchased by Mr W. Murray of Polnaise, who had long rented the shootings of Craigdarroch, near Contin. The price is given as £14,500.

Ibid.—The line of the Great North Company to Keith was opened on the 10th inst.

October 23.—Gaelic poems had been sent in for competition in connection with a Highland gathering held at Bonnington Park. The judges awarded the first place to James Munro, schoolmaster. Kilmonivaig, and his poem was to be published by the Highland Society.

Ibid.—Although grouse shooting had been a failure this year, deer-stalking had given satisfaction. The forests had yielded an abundant supply of fine stags.

Ibid.—A wooden building at Bridge of Oich, in the parish of Boleskine, occupied by a woman as a retail shop for groceries, was burned down on the 7th inst. There was a sum of £15 on the premises, and, as no fire had been lighted in the shop before the occupant left, the case was believed to be one of wilful fire-raising. A young man named John Hastie, who had been prowling about the district, was apprehended on suspicion at Fort-William, and a sum of £12 was found in his possession.

Ibid.—A respected citizen of Nairn, Bailie Donaldson, died on the 15th inst., and Mr John Macdonald of Ben-Nevis Distillery, familiarly known as “Long John,” died on the 19th inst. The latter was an active, hospitable man, well known throughout the Highlands.

Ibid.—Mr Brownlow North was preaching in Inverness, drawing large audiences. Mr



Spurgeon was in the midst of his early popularity in London, and this issue describes the unhappy accident which occurred while he was preaching to a great gathering in the Surrey Music Hall, London. Shortly after the beginning of the service an alarm of danger was raised, and in the rush that followed seven persons were killed and many seriously injured. It was believed that the alarm was raised by thieves. Mr Spurgeon at the time was only twenty-two years of age.

November 6 and 13.—Sir Colin Campbell arrived at Fort-George to discharge his duties as Inspector-General of Infantry. He was recognised in passing through Nairn, and was heartily cheered. At Fort-George he was met by ten pipers, who struck up "The Campbells are coming," and escorted him to his quarters. A few days afterwards Sir Colin visited Inverness, and the Provost and Magistrates waited on him to offer him the freedom of the burgh. Sir Colin, however, was obliged to decline the honour, as he was leaving immediately for the South.—Mention is made of Miss Martha Nicol, a daughter of the late Dr Nicol, of Inverness, who had given valuable service in the hospital at Smyrna during the Crimean War.

November 13.—The Post-Office had withdrawn the mail coach from Perth to Inverness after the opening of the Inverness and Nairn line, and the advance of the Great North. Strong representations, however, were made on the subject, and the Department had now promised to restore the Highland coach.

Ibid.—"The portrait of Charles James Fox, which the great statesman presented to the Corporation of Tain, on his return to Parliament as member for the Northern Burghs, has been forwarded to Edinburgh to be renovated and reframed. The picture was for some time lost sight of."

November 20.—The Inverness Parochial Board had a long and excited meeting discussing the mode of levying assessment. A change proposed by the Rev. Mr Trail was adopted by a large majority, subject



to the approval of the Board of Supervision.

November 27.—A series of articles on the management of landed property in the Highlands was appearing in the paper from time to time. The fourth, contributed to this issue, deals with the management of woods.

December 4.—Mr Angus B. Reach died in London on the 29th ult. He had been for nearly two years in ill-health, incapable of mental effort. His friend, the editor, pays him an affectionate tribute. Mr Reach was barely thirty-five years of age, having been born on 23rd January 1821. He began his literary work at an early age, contributing to the "*Courier*," when a student in Edinburgh, sketches of Macaulay, Professor Wilson, and other celebrities. On his holidays he wrote reviews for the paper, and thus obtained recognition from Dr Charles Mackay, then sub-editor of the "*Morning Chronicle*." In 1842 [?1841] Angus went to London, and speedily established himself as a brilliant journalist and litterateur. "The London miscellanies of the day opened their columns to him, and starting, as he did, with the general principle of affixing his name to all his productions, the name or initials of Angus B. Reach in a very few years became familiar to every reader of the current magazine literature of England. His facility in dashing off readable, even instructive papers on almost any subject was something marvellous. We have known him frequently to sit down after breakfast and write the greater part, if not the whole, of a quiet reflective article for a magazine, then visit some new exhibition or novelty in London, about which a paragraph had to be written, block out the points of a review, or if the book was one of no great note, actually write the critique as it was to appear—and finish the day by producing half-a-column of lively and graphic criticism on the opera of that evening." Sparkling and pleasant tales and serials, and a popular book on Southern France, entitled "*Claret and Olives*," proceeded from his pen. Mr Carruthers testi-



fies that, personally, Mr Reach was one of the most amiable and generous of men. "He threw off squibs and pasquinades as profusely as any one; but it would be hard to find a bitter one, and impossible to find a malicious one, among them." When the collapse came, ready and generous assistance was given by Mr Shirley Brooks, an old and fast friend; by Dr Charles Mackay, Mr Thackeray, Mr Albert Smith, Mr Munro, sculptor, and many others. Mr Shirley Brooks took his place as London correspondent of the "*Courier*," allowing his friend to reap the benefit. The remains of Mr Reach were laid beside those of his father, Roderick Reach, in the cemetery of Norwood.

December 11 and 18.—The former issue states that the Rev. James Mackay, of St John's Episcopal Church, Inverness (who lost the bishopric of Moray and Inverness by a narrow vote), had been appointed to a chaplaincy in the Presidency of Bengal. The next issue records the return of Dr Livingstone from Africa, after an absence of seventeen years. At this time the Skye correspondent of the paper was sending interesting notes, though they are of too general a character for quotation. Mr Kenneth Murray, Tain, afterwards of Geanies, was also sending at intervals an agricultural article. The contributions of both these correspondents were continued for many years.

December 25.—Hugh Miller, famous as author and editor, died by his own hand on the night of the 23rd, or the early morning of the 24th. The circumstances were not fully known at the moment. Dr Carruthers wrote:—"God of our fathers what is man!" Here in the very noon and vigour of life, by a miserable accident or momentary aberration of reason, has been struck down a man who seemed to have many years of honourable exertion awaiting his matured powers, and whose reputation was daily brightening and extending. Through every hamlet and parish in our northern counties this event will be received and felt as a private calamity, no less than as a public and national loss.



Hugh Miller was a noble type of the native self-taught genius—erect, independent, and manly; with none of the pitiable weaknesses or debasing alloys which sometimes mingle with the elements of intellectual vigour and success. He achieved his literary and scientific eminence, and his position in society, by careful and incessant study, and by a pure and spotless life. He sought no meretricious applause and pandered to no bad passion; and thus every advance he made, and every honour he won, was secured for ever, and made the passport to other and higher distinctions." After a few more sentences, the writer adds—"But we cannot, at this moment of grief and surprise, dwell upon the personal worth or the intellectual gifts of Mr Miller. The recollections of nearly thirty years rise up before us, clothed in the pall of a past friendship, and forbid further utterance. It is enough that the deceased 'lived as ever in his great Taskmaster's eye,' and that his death will be mourned and lamented, not only in the country which he loved so well and ennobled by his example, but in foreign lands and distant regions, wherever science, literature, and virtue have a friend and admirer." Hugh Miller was born in October 1802, and had thus completed his fifty-fourth year.



## APPENDIX.

LETTER-BOOK OF AN INVERNESS  
MERCHANT, 1745-46.

Our third series of extracts from the columns of the "Courier" has come to a close, covering fifteen years in the annals of the Highlands. In course of our examination we have found several papers of interest, which may be given as an appendix. The first we have selected is entitled "The Letter-Book of an Inverness Merchant, 1745-46." The circumstances in which it came into the hands of Dr Carruthers are given below. No doubt the letter-book is still in existence, and might repay further examination. Dr Carruthers, however, appears to have skimmed all that was valuable in it. As the articles were first published in 1846, they are unknown to the present generation.—

[From "Courier" of August 1846.]

An old manuscript letter-book lately fell into the hands of a gentleman of this town, who has obligingly furnished us with copious extracts from it. They illustrate the state of the town and trade of Inverness at an interesting time, and hence, though without any pretensions or historical importance—though neither learned, witty, nor romantic—they seem worthy of preservation in the pages of our Highland journal. The letters have no signature, but in one of them the writer tells his correspondent that his communication had been delayed in consequence of a wrong address; "it was directed to Major Grant, *our Governor*, whereas it ought to



have been *Duncan Grant, merchant, Inverness.*" This gives us the name of the careful Inverness merchant, whose letter-book has cast up after so many years' oblivion. Another entry gives us his place of residence. There was no bank agency in Inverness at that time, and Duncan negotiated all his bills with the Royal Bank in Edinburgh, where he held a cash credit for £300. Mr Alex. Innes was one of the officials in the Royal Bank, and he usually transacted Mr Duncan Grant's money matters in Edinburgh. To this gentleman accordingly Mr Grant applied on the subject of insurance, in May 1746, after the affairs of the Rebellion had disturbed the state of society, and rendered the property of a substantial merchant, staunch to the Hanoverian cause, somewhat perilous and insecure. Mr Grant writes to Mr Innes—

My chief design in this is to request you to get my house insured with the Sun Fire Office for £400, and my furniture for £200, without delay. Pay for the policy and a year's insurance, and send me the receipt, with one of their lead stamps having the number on it. My house is a slated one, built with stone, on the east side of Castle Street; one lodging in the back court is possessed by my mother, Margorie Grant, relict of Duncan Grant, late merchant in Inverness; another lodging also in the back court, is possessed by Mr Robert Barbour, professor of mathematics; and the forepart, looking to the street, is all occupied by myself. The whole, behind and forward, is three storeys high and garrets.

#### GRANT'S BUSINESS.

A good roomy house, like that of a man "well to do in the world." And Duncan Grant appears to have been a man worthy of such a designation. He was not only a merchant carrying on a large trade, but he was a sort of military commissary, having had to supply the garrisons of Inverness and Fort-Augustus, and the troops at Bernera and Ruthven, with provisions and firing. The plodding, money-getting style of the letters, in the midst of all the excitement of the Forty-five, makes Duncan Grant seem like a Bailie Nicol Jarvie in the Highlands; but



he must have been a native of the north, for in one of his entries he alludes to his knowledge of the Irish language—the term by which the Gaelic was then known. Our first extract will relate to Mr Grant's doings as commissary, and the remainder of his transactions as a merchant. On the 8th of March 1745 he writes to General Guest, then Commandant of Edinburgh Castle:—

Dear Sir,—I received your favour of 28 past, and am glad to inform you that the barque from Portsoy arrived. I have wrote to the Governor to order down the galley, and I have ordered another lock to be put on the girdel, and David is to have but one of the keys; so that it will be bad luck indeed if any of this meal goes a wrong way. He was in arrear of meal on 31st December last, 324 bolls; he has satisfied the troops ever since, which now reduces the arrear to 200 bolls; and I intend to beg of the Governor and Major Talbot not to allow a peck of this meal to be given out while David can supply them. When I was there, I brought him before the Governor, and desired him to declare whether or not he had received from me every boll charged, so that he might not imagine it was any fault of mine; he could not say that it was overcharged a peck, only complained of the inlake betwixt here and the girdels at Fort-Augustus, which he said was his only ruin. I am indeed very sensible it is so, having known 11 bolls of an inlake in 200. I am heartily sorry for the vexation that Fort-Augustus occasions you, and if I can do more to prevent it, may I not live to write you again.

#### HIS PERPLEXITIES.

The rebellion occasioned no small trouble to honest Duncan. He thus writes, November 1, 1745, to his faithful banker, Mr A. Innes, Edinburgh:—

Your favour of 18th past came to hand only Tuesday last. I see the bill of £80 I sent you is in the hands of Mr John Hay, who, as agent for the Prince, demands the payment as public money; but I cannot conceive how he thinks it to be such, when in truth it is not; it is my own private concern. As I thought that a Paymaster's bill, bearing subsistence to a regiment, would be better than one drawn by a private person, so I gave my money and



took his bill; and any one that will force that money to be paid to any one but to my order, does in effect rob me of so much. I hope, therefore, the Prince, and the gentlemen about him, will reckon it a very great hardship to keep the bill from me. If you could see Colonel John Stewart, I durst venture to assure you he would see justice done to me. As to Sir John Cope's bill of £26. I am much of your opinion, that the present situation of affairs renders it imprudent to return it; therefore, if you can get it safely transacted on your own account, do it, and I will allow the value in part payment of George Dunbar's 3 hhd's. of wine.

A fortnight later he writes to Mr John Crowe, Newcastle—

This will be delivered to you by my friend, Mr Hugh Inglis of this place, who, as his own vessel is too small, goes to freight a larger one, to carry down coal for the use of the troops here. Now, as sugar is somewhat scarce here at present, and as we have no communication with Edinburgh or Glasgow—occasioned by the Highland army that lays betwixt us—please ship for my account 4 cwts. of finest loaf sugar, 4 cwt. of second sort, and 4 cwt. of lump do.; and if flour be good and cheap, 8 firkins of the finest, 16 of the second, and 16 of the third sort. Send me also six chests of window glass, a barrel of tar, and a good large fire-pan, such as you use to carry fire from room to room. Insure to the full value, so that I may be no sufferer, in case of capture or any other misfortune.

On the 7th of December he addresses Mr John Mowatt, Campvere, Holland:—

Exert yourself to the utmost of your power in getting me a good sufficient vessel, or none at all. Your friend Lachlan Mackintosh, who came with you to my house, has given over our trade, and taken another by the hand. He is now with the Highland army fighting for Prince Charles. There has been no action yet between the King's forces and the Highlanders in England. Several French ships have landed money and arms in Scotland, and some transports have arrived with Lord John Drummond's regiment from France. We are alarmed here with an invasion from Dunkirk, and we are told that the Dutch troops which we have are to be recalled. Pray, what is all this? Favour me with your news.



## FLIGHT AND RETURN.

There are no entries in the letter-book for three months previous to May 1746. On the arrival of the first portion of the Highland army in Inverness, on 18th February, poor Duncan Grant was obliged to fly. His loyalty to the reigning family and his situation as commissary, made him a marked man to the rebels. He hid the most valuable of his goods and left the remainder in charge of his wife, who seems to have been a clever woman, for although the malt in town was seized to feed the rebels' horses, she found means to secret about forty bolls till her husband's return. His first letter is to his friend Mr Alex. Innes, of the Royal Bank, Edinburgh—it is dated 14th May 1746:—

As I have not seen my own house from the day the rebels came to this place to the day the Duke of Cumberland made them leave it. I think it were high time for me now to look to some business; and yet I find difficulty in it still, for, by the great number of troops we have here, my house is so full that I scarce can get room in it to write this. I send you enclosed Major Mackenzie's bill on London for £150, and Major Grant's, our Governor, ditto, for £68 5s, out of which I desire you to pay the sums on the other side, and place the balance to my credit with the bank. I have neither time nor room to look at my accounts, but when the town is somewhat thinner I will write again.

All his letters at this time complain of the disturbance and loss he experienced "from the day the rebels took possession of the town till the day that our deliverer, the Duke of Cumberland, made them leave it." In the following, addressed to Messrs John Coutts & Co., Edinburgh, 14th May 1746, he sets down his own losses at £400:—

Never was a poor country so distressed as ours has been for some months past; for my own part, I did not see it, but felt it pretty much — £400 will not pay my loss by them. Was it in point of dealing, I should have myself to blame, but 't was by the most arbitrary robbery that ever was heard—and that too under the pretence



of authority—all the world, as well as I, must condemn them. Our town is so full of troops, that my house, tho' a private one, is as full as ever you saw a tavern in Edinburgh. I have not opened out my books and papers, nor will I, till I can put them into their own places, so that I know not how I stand with your company, but I think I owe nothing. I hope in two or three weeks to be able to call part of my house my own, and then I shall satisfy you and myself about our account current. I have been all along very sensible of your good intentions to serve me, for which I shall always be grateful, and notwithstanding what I have lost, I thank God I have yet more left, so that I need ask neither discount or delay of anything I owe.

#### BUSINESS RESUMED.

The losses occasioned by the rebels, and the presence of the King's troops in the town, caused a general demand for provisions, and Duncan Grant, as usual, was on the alert. To Messrs Coutts & Co., Edinburgh, he writes as follows, June 3:—

I am glad to hear that corn comes from England in such plenty, and I daresay that for this summer and harvest this will be as good a mercat for it as any in Britain, not only for corn, but for anything that is eatable and drinkable; and had I money to pay for them I should soon commission for five or six cargoes of different kinds. If you will allow me to go halves with you for a cargo or two of articles, I will endeavour to be as punctual as possible in paying my share of it. Most of the cattle in the Highlands are, or very soon will be, destroyed by the army, which must occasion great scarcity; and as no doubt we shall have a great number of troops amongst us for some time, things will be in demand; and what would make a capital trip of it is, if you could, on application to the commissioners, obtain a license to import such cargoes for the benefit of the troops here, it would suit well; and if you think any interest I could make with the Duke of Cumberland, or General Blakeney, would contribute, I would try it. The articles chiefly in request will be beef, pork, butter, cheese, tallow candles, soap, bend-leather, linen from 8d to 2s 6d, 5 or 6 tons—good rum—yea, potatoes, rather than waste room in the ship



To Collector Cheape, Prestonpans, 11th June—

It is said Fort-Augustus will be repaired, and a new fort built in Inverness, but not on the ground of the former; but I don't think we can know anything certain till the Duke reaches London. This is now the season for making peats, and as the men who used to supply us were all in the rebellion, I have sent to others to see if they will contract with me. When the Duke goes to Edinburgh, no doubt he will give you full directions, and you will find what number of troops we are to provide for next winter; if so, I think the following particulars ought to be adverted to. We have neither bedding, meal, nor malt, for them, nor will those things be got here for money; therefore, as Commissary Dundas got the last cargo of coal (which I am very glad of, as they were truly bad), you should send another cargo or two, for what with the wetness of the season and the want of hands to work at the peats, we must be scarce of firing this year; and as no grain was left us I would advise your sending 600 bolls of meal and 200 bolls of Dunbar malt.

There had been complaints that meal was not sent to the garrison at Bernera [Glenelg], a charge which Duncan indignantly denies. To Major Caulfield he writes—

I give you my word its not ten months since they had twelve months' meal sent them overland from Fort-Augustus. In place of sending it under an escort, as General Guest ordered, I took it on me to trust it entirely to my namesakes of Glenmoriston, and, though it happened very well, I shall never do the like again. My reason was, I had some suspicion of the rebellion, and therefore thought if anything would save the meal it would be such a worthy honest guard.

Might not the Glenmoriston men have helped themselves to part of the meal by the way? It was seldom they had so good a pretext for levying black-mail on the Government stores. There was great difficulty in procuring meal, and Duncan Grant writes to Collector Cheape—

I know of no meal to be got in our neighbourhood, deliverable here, but Lord Lovat's and Campbell of Cawdor's. Ross-shire is a



very good country for meal, but what we get there must be received at Oromarty. You may talk to Lord Ross, for his son's estate of Balnagown affords very good meal. There is no such thing, I fear, as bargaining with Lord Lovat's people for their meal on the spot, for unless some person is appointed factor to receive it they will never deliver it, so it will be lost to the King and private party.

#### JACOBITE AGENTS.

With all old Lovat's faults his people still clung to him. They preferred him, at least, to the Government, and were content to suffer loss for their clanship. Jacobite principles appear to have got in among some of the northern officials, which troubled honest Duncan, who cared for none of these things. He informs Collector Cheape of a renegade at Bernera:—

Watt, of the barracks at Bernera, has got into a scrape, by a soldier's wife swearing that he drank the Pretender's health as King James. The Duke has heard of it, and he is so very angry that he has intimated to me that he must be immediately turned out, and one Maclean (who I know nothing about) put into his place. I wrote in the strongest manner to Major Caulfield, that if he was turned out before he cleared his accounts the General would be a sufferer by him. I have, in the meantime, wrote in the most pressing manner to Watt to come and clear his accounts, without letting on anything of this.

The sequel of this story is that Maclean turned out as bad as Watt! In a few weeks Duncan writes to his friend the Collector, that Maclean had proved to be a "rank Jacobite," and was sent by General Campbell in irons to Fort-Augustus. With Lord Albe-marle's consent, however, the worthy Commissary put the delinquent's son "to officiate in his stead." Next in importance to the supply of meal was the supply of peats, and we have a curious letter on this subject, addressed to a firm named "Balnain and Leeks." It is dated June 4th, 1746:—

It being now the proper season to make peats for Fort-Augustus, and as poor Ochtera is not in a way at present of doing it, I make the first offer to you. I shall first propose the



terms on which I am content to deal with you. I shall leave it to you to accept or not as you please, and then give you my private opinion in case of your not doing it. I want to have delivered, in the peat-yard at Fort-Augustus, 14,000 loads of good and sufficient peats, betwixt the date hereof and 1st Nov. next, each load to consist of 120 peats, for which I am satisfied to pay threepence sterling for each load. I don't tie you down to that precise number, but in your answer to me bind yourselves to what number you think you can give, only perform what you promise, and when I know what that is I shall provide the rest. Now, as to the consequence it will be this, if you undertake to do the thing it will be serving yourselves and the country; if not, then as the moss is looked on as the King's now, cutters from all quarters will be put on it, and I am much of opinion that while there is a horse within twelve miles, they will be pressed to carry the King's firing; so, in the first place, study your own interest, and then the good of the country around you. I know this principle prevails much with us, tho', indeed, we ought to prefer the public to the private interest at all times.

True, Duncan, but this balancing between the public and the private interest, and the hint about the moss being looked upon as the King's own, say more for your *pawkiness* than for your patriotism.

#### TRADE AND GENERAL AFFAIRS.

A vessel from Holland, laden with spirits, was taken by the *Eltham*, man-of-war, but was afterwards liberated. "As we have a great army here," writes Duncan, "I thought if I had interest to get my rum and brandy out, it would be better and quicker than exporting it." He accordingly made application to the Duke of Cumberland, who ordered it ashore for the use of the troops, and gave an indemnity to the ship in the case of prosecution. Duncan obtained a general order to take out all the rum and brandy in the ship, by which means he was able to oblige his neighbours in trade, who also received their stores. General Blakeney, commander of the Royal troops in Inverness, took lodgings with Duncan Grant, and his business again got brisk. The Gene-



ral, he says, was an excellent judge of wine! His commissary accounts, however, were still in a perplexed state. On the 27th of May he writes to Collector Cheape at Prestonpans—

If David Baillie of Fort-Augustus does not come here in ten days to clear his accounts, I must go where he is. It's true he was always backward with his accounts, tho' I cannot blame him so much this year, for really our present commotions put a stop to all sort of business here, even with the most punctual men. Except it be some remains of some walls, there is not a vestige of either barracks or barrack stores left at Fort-Augustus or Ruthven, and when they got possession of our town and garrison, they did the same here, and fed the horses with our malt. . In short, there was nothing but ruin and destruction wherever they came. They often wished to lay hold of me to put me to death, on account of my correspondence with the General, some of my letters having fallen into their hands. The rebels got hold of Main's coal ship, and carried off, I daresay, 70 tons. I am glad to know you are soon to be here, and if you will let me know your route, I will meet you on the road, and show you the way to my little house, where I assure you of most hearty welcome.

Our merchant, notwithstanding all his care, could not, in those disturbed times, conduct his affairs without the aid of an Edinburgh lawyer. There are several letters requiring advice. The following is dated 30th May 1746, and is addressed to David Munro, writer, Edinburgh:—

Some Highland scoundrel of a rebel is now wearing that piece of fine linen you sent north of mine; however, as it was for the best you did it, I cannot blame you. I have a debt of £40 against Glengarry, upon which nothing has past but a horning. Pray what ought I to do with it, for I think, by the manner in which he is used by the King's troops, it looks as if his estate was to be forfeited, for all his country is ruined, and his castle and offices burned to the ground. I had at Fort-Augustus some rooms furnished for the officers there. When the rebels took it, they carried off, burnt, or destroyed all Major Caulfield's furniture and mine. Some of the furniture (but whether his or mine I know not yet) was found in Glengarry's house. Can I claim on his estate pay-



ment for my furniture? John Baillie of Torbreck is dead, and several of his creditors are applying to the Lords to get an order for W. Fraser, W.S., to set the lands.

To the same gentlemen he writes on 11th June—

I return you thanks for sending me a note of adjudications against Torbreck, and as I find mine is the first by year and day, I hope I shall be paid, come of others what will. It is agreed that the estate is worth more than all the adjudications. If you think my money safe in the event, tho' not soon, I don't care to be the first to insist in a process of mails and duties and of a sale; but if you think it contributes to my safety and interest, I'll certainly do it; for as now I have got to windward of them all, it were a shame to allow myself to be distanced. You give me great pleasure in letting me know that there was a meeting to concert measures to recover payment, not only of debts due, but also damages done by the rebels. I have claims of both kinds.

The situation of Inspector of Fisheries became vacant at this time, and Duncan wrote to his friends requesting their influence to procure him the appointment. He writes as follows to Collector Cheape, October 21st, 1746:—

I am much indebted to you for the interest you take in getting me appointed Inspector of Fisheries. As to my asking President Forbes's interest, it's what I do not care to do, and that for the following reasons:—You must know that for the last ten or twelve years there has been a kind of political quarrel between the family of Grant and his; and as far as I could observe, ever since, my name is not the most agreeable to him. My next reason is, that I hear he has promised his interest to one John Frigg of Findhorn; but, according to the rules laid down by the Trustees, the person appointed must speak Irish, and he knows no more about it than I do of Arabic. It is, no doubt, a loss to me that Lord Elchies is not a member; but although he has no vote, yet I am sure there are votes he can get—solicit him therefor. My Lord Justice-Clerk and my Lord Advocate have done me the honour of promising me their votes. I look upon that as gaining the cause. This is a place that, if my friends were to think of one for me for twenty



years, they could not hit on a more proper one—being a place that does not depend on Court or Ministry.

In another letter to the Collector, written a month afterwards, Duncan congratulates himself on obtaining the support of Grant of Grant, and he hints that it would be well if the Trustees could be got to appoint him "*before the President comes down from London.*" We hope he secured the object of his ambition. We may here remark, that though Duncan does not seem to have looked on the excellent President Forbes as one of his patrons, the President was one of his customers. From the accounts still preserved at Culloden House, it appears that wine was occasionally furnished by Duncan Grant, merchant, at the rate of 18s per dozen for the very best claret. Another Inverness merchant, named Willison, charged 16s per dozen. The Bank directors in Edinburgh now began to look after Duncan's security for his cash credit of £300. He writes to Mr A. Innes on the 11th of June 1746:—

I received a letter last post from Mr Baillie of the Royal Bank, acquainting me that the directors desired that I should find new cautioners, in place of Lord Lovat and General Guest. I do not wonder at their not looking on Lovat now as a good man, but surely General Guest, tho' he is gone to London, is as good as ever; and I hope the bank will think him, Evan Baillie, and myself, good for £300—yea, if it was £3000, the bank could not be sufferers by the two last, tho' the General was not in the question. For my part, I am so ashamed to trouble my friends to join me for £300, that if the bank be not satisfied with the security they have, I believe I shall send them word to balance and shut up the account.

#### FOREIGN TRADE.

This threat had the desired effect—nothing more was said about the security. We shall now turn to the commercial letters. The commerce of Inverness was very different then from what it is at present. There were not more than two ships in the London trade,



and each of them performed only three or four voyages in the year; while there were four vessels sailing regularly to Rotterdam, and occasionally they required to charter a fifth. Sometime previous to the Forty-five a considerable trade was carried on with Boulogne, Bordeaux, and Dunkirk; but this was superseded during the French war, and all wines and other commodities were sent to Holland and re-shipped for Inverness. Honest Duncan was a good deal of a *free-trader*, as appears from his frequent directions to his correspondents to give certain goods to "the particular care of the ship-master, and let them have nothing to do with *coquet or custom-house*." His plan of providing himself with Mogul cards (no doubt the English soldiers created a demand for this luxury) is an instance of his contraband traffic. He orders no less than twelve gross of packs to be purchased in London, free of duty, for exportation; to be shipped for Rotterdam, and re-shipped for Inverness, under the special care of the master. Duncan seems to have been a very correct man of business—always desirous to have the best article—and equally precise in his orders, whether for ten tons of wine or for "a few yards of very pretty flowered silk, for a gown to my little daughter, nine years of age." The following letters illustrate, to some extent, the tastes and habits of the Inverness public. To Messrs James Smith & Co., Bordeaux, he writes on the 4th December 1745:—

On receipt of this please send me a very exact account of last vintage, as to quality, quantity, and price of red and white wines; also, brandy and vinegar; to which add the prices of such other goods as we generally order, particularly rock indigo, prunes, playing cards, olive and jessamine oils, Hungary waters, capillaire, gloves, velvet corks, with such other articles as may occur to you. I find there is no such thing as sending you a vessel from here while this war continues; therefore, if you give me any encouragement to order any wine, you will tender me your best advice how to get it home, for I can think of no way at present but by Holland. Pray, how would the Isle of Man, or Ireland, or Norway, answer?



To Mr Alexander Livingston, Rotterdam,  
Dec. 4, 1745—

I writ you on 1st ult., copy whereof you have prefixed; I now confirm the same. This will be delivered by Donald Mackenzie, master of the *Hercules*, on board of which you will ship, on my proper account and risque, the following goods, taking care that not only the full value, but also the charges and discount, be insured, so that in case of capture or any other accident I may be no sufferer. 30 ankers brandy, 15 do. best rum, 1000 weight of sugar of four different qualities, 4 chests of lemons, and 2 do. of bitter oranges. If I can meet with a small vessel to freight, shall send her soon over. Amongst other goods I shall want 20 hhds. good claret. Will you undertake to get it for me? It must be racked off fine.

On the 4th June 1746, he writes to the same correspondent in Rotterdam:—

Messrs Brodie and Shaw of Elgin wrote me that if I wanted a few tuns of wine in addition to my last commission, I might have room for it in their ship. You will therefore ship it of the following kinds—2 hhds of the very strongest port wine that can be got; 1 pipe of mountain malaga, and 2 do. of veritable sherry, without tendency to the least sweetness. You know the British and the Dutch differ much in their taste of wine; the one for sweet, the other for soft, smooth, silky wine. I beg, whatever wines you send me now, or at any other time, may be extraordinary good of their kinds, should it cost the penny more: I would rather have none than not have it really good. Insure to the full. I believe David Mackenzie and his ship will be soon over with you, by whom I shall trouble you with a commission for several things, which must be all very good; but what I shall chiefly recommend to your particular care will be about 20 hhds. claret, and that at two prices; if you don't think that 70 or 80 guilders can fetch such wine as I want, then let it be 80 and 90, for I shall leave you no excuse.

#### TASTE IN WINES.

Our townsmen of that date must have been choice and select in their wines—the strong port forming a kind of foundation for the “extraordinary” fine claret! The Dutch guilder or florin is at present equal to 1s 8d sterling. In two months after the fore-



going (August 7), we have another large order addressed to Mr Alex. Livingston, Rotterdam. In this commission Duncan plumes himself on his reputation as a wine-merchant, which the "Highland rebels" seem to have duly appreciated:—

On receipt hereof, I desire you may order to rack off, quite fine, the following wines, to be shipped by David Mackenzie, master of the Providence, which sailed from here yesterday:— 16 hhds. claret, 2 do. best old port, and 2 good mountain malaga. I think the following prices, which I am content to allow, should bring me exceeding good wines; if not, I shall never put pen to paper to order wines from Holland. 8 hhds. at 80 guilders, 4 do. at 90, and 4 do. at 100. I have for upwards of 20 years retained the character of keeping as good, yea, some will tell you the best, wines in the north; and I hope I shall not now lose that character through you. I think what you sent me last was very good at the price, and I thank you for it, which is more than it yielded me—the blackguard Highland rebels having drunk it and paid nothing for it. I hope what I now get will be prime; it is partly intended for General Blakeney, who commands here this year, and stays at my house. He is a man of very nice taste, and I would not for the whole value that it did not answer his expectation. Clear out the ship from Lisbon and Rotterdam for Inverness and Bergen. I will write you fully by next post, when I must trouble you with a commission from my wife, for a thousand articles for aught I know; and she says she will trust neither you nor me with the choosing of them, but must beg Mrs Livingston to see them all, otherwise she will not be pleased.

#### VARIED COMMISSIONS.

This letter was dated August 7th, 1746. The next is only one week later, and it also contains an extensive order to Mr James Livingston, Rotterdam. Duncan was rejoicing in a flowing trade. In this commission we have an order from the merchant's wife, which is as varied and miscellaneous in its contents as ever lady dictated:—

I wrote on 7th current, ordering 20 hhds. wine by David Mackenzie, which I now confirm. Need I say more as to its quality? Or what can I say more than I have done? You know I must have good, sound, strong wines, of a



fine flavour and deep body. I know you can send me such, and if you do it not, a quarrel must ensue: I leave it to yourself, and as you serve me, so will I pay you. Meantime, for your encouragement, I send you enclosed James Taylor's bill for 1000 guilders, with which credit my account. When I shall pay the rest of my commission, God knows; but be assured it will be as soon as possible. The exchange you draw at does not at all sit easy on me. I can buy many thousands of guilders at 21 and 22 per G.; therefore I hope you will resolve to draw on me at a lower exchange, or wait till I can remit you. You will add to my former commission—1 hhd. best rum, 1 chest lemons, 1 do. bitter oranges, 1 firkin good hair-powder, a piece fine muslin for cravats, 2 pieces cotton handkerchiefs, a ream *patriot* paper, 1 ream London arms, do., cut in halves, 25 lbs. raisins, 24 lbs. currants, 1 lb. cinnamon, 1 lb. mace, 1 do. nutmeg, 6 large delft pots, 5 do. basins, 6 of the largest sponges that can be got, for drying tables, 1 chest Seville oranges, a bushel of good fresh walnuts, 1 do. of chestnuts, a barrel of good onions, and 25 lbs. best and freshest clover seed. Now follows my wife's commission, which gives me more trouble than all the rest, and if Mrs Livingston does not see and approve of most of it, I tell you beforehand they will not please:—8 lb. good Bohea tea, 12 lb. best Hyson, 20 lb. best coffee, and 20 finest chocolate, 2 firkins best butter, 6 lb. cucumbers, 6 do. capers, 12 do. anchovies, 6 bottles best pickled walnuts, 6 jars best green olives, 1 large coffee and 1 chocolate pot, 12 Dutch ells of pretty half-lace, of a narrow kind, but of three different patterns, a piece of the finest calico, fit for women's aprons, and a piece India yellow taffety for petticoats, with a piece of the very best and largest India silk handkerchiefs. "Mind : cocks and hens, and see they be very large; we have plenty small ones here. My wife was to have made you a remittance of 60 or 80 crowns, which she has either stolen or robbed from me, but David Mackenzie going off uncalled for, the purpose is still extant.

This is a half jocular epistle—evidently proceeding from a comfortable citizen. Duncan was getting on bravely, notwithstanding his losses from the rebels; and his wife, as became the helpmate of such a thriving citizen, wished to have her little luxuries and ornaments. Some of these would, of course, be designed for their lodger, General Blakeney; but the pretty lace, the fine



calico, and Indian yellow taffetty, were doubtless destined to adorn the person of Mrs Duncan Grant. The goods were duly sent from Holland, and gave entire satisfaction, as we find from the following to Mr Livingston, dated November 7th, 1746:—

The goods by the Providence arrived last week. It would be doing the wines injustice to pretend to give a character of them before they have time to settle in the cellars. I am sorry to tell you that a hhd. of No. 5 ran out in the hold, occasioned by the insufficiency of the cask, per enclosed declaration. Upon whom that loss will come—whether on the insurers, on you, your cooper, or on me—I leave you to determine. You will have my sincere opinion of the wines in three or four weeks, and if it is truly good I will be as ready to acknowledge it, and thank you for it, as I shall be to condemn if it does not please; for I am as ready as any Scotsman to complain when I have reason. Now, as to the articles sent my wife, shall only say, that if you do by me as Mrs L. has done by her it will be impossible to find fault. The lace is vastly pretty, and the calico the best I ever saw, and everything good of its kind. I beg to return Mrs L. my hearty thanks, and my wife sends her ten thousand. The butter-dishes do not answer my purpose, and it's my own fault. What I want is little dishes, or boats, I believe, they are called, to carry beat butter to table in; they are shaped very like a weaver's shuttle, a strop at each end and a handle at each side. Try and get such, of very pretty china. You will now send me by Captain Rodgers, 2 hhds. best port wine, and one best Bene Carlo, and ditto best proniac white wine, brisk like champagne, and add 2 cocks and 4 hens of the largest breed in Holland; also, for my own use, a handsome joint of a cane, at least three feet long.

#### PLAYING CARDS, &c.

The cane “for my own use” is a decided mark of advancing prosperity and importance. We may conceive a little of pomposity in worthy Duncan's manner, as he set out with this cane in his hand from his three storey house in Castle Street, to the parish church every Sunday. We have next a specimen in a small way of the manner in which free trade was carried on at that period:—

To Mr Alex. Gordon, London,—Sir, I am told



that Mogul cards come very cheap in London, when bought for export, and still cheaper if not stamp'd; you will therefore purchase for me 12 grosses, and ship them, well packed, by first vessel for Rotterdam, consigned to Mr Alex. Livingston, to my account.

The same day he writes to Mr Livingston—

I have writ to Mr Alex. Gordon, London, to send you by first ship going over—12 grosses of Mogul playing cards, which, when they arrive, you will reship by David Mackenzie or David Robertson, but to the special cāre of the master. Send at same time 4 reams of London arms writing paper, and 1 do. gilt, cut in half sheets; send me a hamper or two of delft, viz.: —4 prettiest roast plates, 2 dozen soup do., and to each 4 dishes; an anker of the very strongest rum to be got; 20 dozen lemons, and 20 dozen oranges; and a piece of thick cambric, such as is used for ruffles.

The following to Mr John Hassell, London, 27th November 1746, shows that Duncan was not a man to be treated with neglect or suspicion:—

I wrote you some time ago to send me some porter by Captain Reid, which commission you was not pleased to obey, whether doubting my credit or for what other reason I know not; but this I believe, that General Guest (who desired me to deal with you or your brother the major) would not doubt me for a ship-load of porter. You will now send me, by Captain Hugh Inglis, of the Pledger, eight hhds. of the best fresh porter, which, if it is not very good, cannot sell here at present, for we have an army with us who are very good judges. Captain Inglis will pay the value; but if in your next you doubt me, let me know that my commissions, whether with or without money, are welcome to you; I'll forbear giving you any more trouble.

Mr Hassell sent the porter, as appears from the subjoined letter, addressed to Captain Hugh Inglis, at his house, Shore, Inverness:—

You have here enclosed Mr Campbell his bill, at three days' sight, on the Ordnance Office, Tower, for £30, out of which pay Mr Hassell's account for porter, and with what remains you will buy the following articles—all of the best kind, though they cost the penny



more. If the things you buy for me exceed the value in your hands, in that event I allow you to draw on me for not only what you overpay, but also, if you have occasion for it, any sum you please within a hundred guineas, and I hereby promise your bill will meet with due honour. In reading over my commission, I find it contains more of my wife's than of mine, so part betwixt you, for I have obeyed my orders. A handsome stone for the chimney of my little room that smokes, 18 inches in the ribs; a piece of arras hangings for the partition of said room,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  yards by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  high; a double dozen of ivory-hafted London bladed knives and forks, with a shagreen case to hold a dozen of spoons, 2 salts, and a marrow spoon; 2 jappaned drinking mugs, to hold a bottle each; 2 firkins best butter; 4 best Gloucester cheeses; 4 choppin bottles best eating oils; 4 firkins flour; 2 best steel snuffers; a handsome kettle, hard mettle, to contain about 4 Scotch pints; 4 dozen most fashionable wine glasses; 2 thick water glasses; 2 glass decanters to hold some more than a bottle; 1 dozen glasses for washing hands at table; 1 glass lamp to hang in the stair; a pretty lanthorn to hold 2 candles; 6 pair women's largest best stockings, viz., 2 pair blue, 2 do. green, 1 do. scarlet, and 1 do. black; an iron toaster of plates, well polished—what I mean is that machine that stands before the fire full of plates to keep them till there is use for them; a table bell.

#### THE HOUSE IN CASTLE STREET.

Two other letters relate to the embellishment of Duncan's house in Castle Street, and from the first of these we learn that the merchant also had a farm and six cows. To Mr Ralph Carr, Newcastle:—

I beg leave to trouble you to send me by first ship the following articles for my family use. As you say it's not easy to negotiate bills on this place; draw for the value on Messrs John Coutts & Co., Edinburgh; and when you have occasion to write to that place, may inquire of them or of Messrs W. Hogg & Co., or of Mr Alex. Innes of the Royal Bank, about me, and they can let you know how far you are safe to deal with me. The articles I want are 6 firkins very best new butter, 4 Gloucester cheeses, 6 firkins fresh flour; a firepan, such as we use to carry fire up and down stairs in; a large kitchen shovel with holes in it. I have a small farm in the country where I keep six milk cows; if you could furnish that little



dairy with a sufficient stock of your earthenware, such as is used with you for holding milk, butter, &c., I should be much obliged to you.

To Messrs George Dunbar and Co., Edinburgh:—

I believe, by the time my wife gets the mournings I wrote you for, it were time for her to go out of them. I have a little daughter of nine years, who thinks the finest things she ever saw here not equal to the coarsest with you, so that I can have no peace till I get her a gown, shoes, and stockings from Edinbro'. Pray, at how much a yard can I get a genteel silk, light in colour? I believe a flowered one would please best, and I think a white ground would not be improper. Give me your advice, that I may send for it and get rid of her. Can shoes be got by her age without her measure?

NOTE.—This is the end of the quotations in the "Courier." We hear no more of Mr Duncan Grant, but no doubt he continued to be a prosperous man.



## APPENDIX.

WEST HIGHLANDS AND SKYE  
IN 1782.

## JOURNAL OF ENGLISH SERVANT.

[From the "Courier," January 26, 1854.]

The following are extracts from a MS. journal or narrative, written by an English servant who came to the north in 1781, with his master Captain (afterwards Major) Macleod, whom he had served in America. Major Macleod died at Fort-George, March 24, 1782, leaving a widow and four children—the eldest of the latter a son, Captain in the 59th regiment. It was the dying request of the veteran officer that his servant should remain with the widow and family. Their means were very limited, but Captain Macleod, the son, assisted his mother, and she had also her pension. It was arranged that they should all go for a time to reside with the late Major's relatives in the Highlands; and, accordingly, they sold off their effects and went to the House of Mr Macleod, a brother of the deceased, who lived at the farm of Arnisdale, in Glenelg. There they remained for about fourteen months. They were then invited to spend the winter in Skye with Mr Macleod of Gesto, a sister's son of the late Major's. At length, Captain Macleod, the son, came to Scotland, and took a house in Inverness for his mother, where she resided with her family till her death. Abram (for this was the servant's Christian name; his surname does not appear in the MS.) seems to have been a faithful domestic, strongly attached to his mistress and her children. He had a dislike to the West Highlands, and complains of hard work, poor



diet, and harsh treatment—his mistress not being able to do much for him. His journal is written in a good hand, but is ill spelt and ungrammatical. He had the feelings and prejudices of an illiterate English servant, with apparent honesty and simplicity of character:—

#### JOURNEY TO GLENELG.

After the auction (March 1782) I went to Inverness and got a chaise to take us from Fort-George. Mr Macleod had gone some time before to get horses to meet us at Fort-Augustus, for a carriage could not go farther than there. We left the Fort in the afternoon, and slept at the New Inn in Inverness. The next day we went to Fort-Augustus, and got there early in the afternoon. Governor Campbell had been so good as to write to Governor Trepauld, acquainting him with our coming and where we were going to, so that he and his lady were no strangers to us, though they had never seen us before. We got to Fort-Augustus on the Wednesday, and stayed there until the Monday following. On Tuesday the horses came and we began our march. My mistress and Miss Susy had never rode on horseback before, so Mr Macleod and I expected we should have a great deal of trouble with them. I was stationed at the head of my mistress's horse for fear of her falling off, and Mr Macleod had Alexander before him, and we had two baggage horses besides. The road from Fort-Augustus to Glenelg was all made by the military, and the same has been done south and east for many miles. From Inverness to Bernera is, I suppose, eighty miles, cut through rocks and carried along the sides of almost inaccessible mountains. In some places the road is made zig-zag in such a manner that where you rise a mile in height it will be three miles in travelling.

The first day we went no farther than Anoch, in Glenmoriston, which was about ten miles, and we got into quarters early, such as they were. On Wednesday we had one of the most long and tiresome day's travelling that ever my mistress or her children had. There was no place to call or rest at from Anoch to Glen-shiel, a distance of 30 English miles; and the road was always going either up hill or down, which makes it disagreeable to the best of riders, and much more so to such as our party consisted of. It rained hard the whole day, and wet us all through our clothes. I luckily had a big coat, which I accommodated my



mistress with, and I also give my hat to Miss Hannah, and walked bareheaded all the way. The wind and beating rain made my face and eyes swell, but I did not mind it. On the tops of some of these mountains there is snow all the year round, and in the valleys it is either raining or snowing almost every day.

Before we got to Shiel House, my mistress began to be very much fatigued; but though she was so wet and had rode so far, she bore it remarkably well. Here we bade adieu to wheat bread, there being nothing but oat-cakes and barley bannocks. The next day, after a short but disagreeable day's journey, we came to a gentleman's house in Glenelg. His name is Mr Murchison. He treated us very kindly, and we stayed a day or two to recruit from the fatigues of the journey. We were now in the Laird of Macleod's country, and all of them being akin, we were consequently among the family's relations. The next stage we made was to a place they call Island-riach; the owner's name was Macleod, and we stayed there two or three days until Mr Macleod went to bring us a boat to carry us to Arnisdale, there being no crossing these mountains for such riders as ours were, and hardly any for the best of jockeys, as the mountains rise one above the other to an amazing height—the tops of them being almost always lost in the clouds. We went by water, seven or eight miles, as I suppose, and then we came to our journey's end, to Arnisdale, Mr Macleod's farm, at the foot of a very high mountain inaccessible on the side next the water. The house is about a hundred yards from the loch, which is called Loch-Hourn, or Hell's Loch, and not very improperly called so, for it is a remarkably rough sea—always high winds and rains, and seldom a day without storms or hurricanes. There is little communication from one place to another except by water; and I have known neighbours, when they came to Arnisdale on pleasure or business, obliged to stay several days on account of the weather.

#### WAY OF LIFE.

It was in the beginning of August when we arrived at Arnisdale. It was their hay harvest, and I was set to work at the hay. Indeed they always found a succession of labour for me. After the hay, there was working amongst the peats for firing, and then came on the corn and potato harvest. The gentlemen farmers in the Highlands, who rent of the laird a farm of £60 or £70 a-year, have poor sub-tenants under them, sometimes twenty or thirty families on such a farm. These are the most abject and



servile creatures that can be, and the poor little huts they live in are built by themselves without any art or cunning; it is generally but one room, and the fire in the middle of it, without either chimney or window. A hole or two in the wall and the doorway answer both to let in the light and let out the smoke. The whole furniture of such a house is not worth twenty shillings. Exclusive of pots to make their brochan and boil their potatoes in they have nothing of worth. The seats round the fire is a stone or perhaps a block of wood. Their beds in summer are made of heather, and in winter of dried fern or straw, and their covering is the plaid or striped blanket thrown over them. In winter the cows and sheep come in along with the family, and they are huddled together.

Their masters will not allow them to keep horses, so everything they do out of doors in the fields is done with their own hands. They do not pretend to work for more than a bare subsistence, and sometimes in bad seasons they fall short of it. During frost and snow the cattle must eat their little corn to keep them alive, as there is little hay got in so far north as this. The master allots them their small pieces of land up against the hill sides, or betwixt the clefts of the rocks, where his own people cannot plough; and they act very partially towards some of the poor people, as their little spots are changed yearly, and they have to dig or delve, as they call it, with as unhandy an instrument of husbandry as ever I saw. This is made of a crooked piece of wood, with an iron sock at the end of it; a wooden pin goes through it just below the crooked part, which they set their foot against. The small end comes up about five feet and makes the handle. The instrument is called the crooked spade (*cas-chrom*), and with it they dig their ground for oats and bere (an inferior kind of barley), and also for potatoes. The dung is carried out by the man and his wife upon their backs in deep baskets or creels, and when they reap their little harvest, it is carried home in the same manner upon their backs.

Thus are these people continually employed in uninterrupted and fruitless labour, which can never free them from want. They cannot pay money to their masters, but they are obliged to do his work and to answer his calls. If it is to reap his harvest they must come though their own corn should be shaken by the wind, for whatever they have themselves is but a secondary object. If they should refuse to go when they are called, their master would turn



them off his farm, and no other would allow them to live upon theirs. Besides their labour, they give one-half stone of butter and a stone of cheese yearly for every cow they keep. For sheep and fowls they pay more or less in wool and eggs, and if they go a-fishing some of the fish they get must be brought to the house. A young man-servant will get no more wages than £1, or £1 4s a-year, with leather for brogues. A young woman gets seven or eight shillings a-year, and if she is a favourite she may receive a pair of brogues and a neck handkerchief. What seems most strange is that they make no improvements in their husbandry. They are so prejudiced in their ancient customs that they will not leave them off. Their barley they pull up by the roots; then wrap it up in small handfulls; and when it is dry they cut off the stubble and thatch their houses with it. With their oats they burn the straw from the grain, and the women tread it afterwards in a straw tub until it is shelled; it is then ground in a little mill, which they call a quern, turned by a woman, who feeds it with her hand. I do not believe the woman will grind above two or three pecks a day. Sometimes the oats are thrashed to feed the cattle when the snow lies on the ground. Reaping and cleaning the corn are done by the women, and all kinds of labour is accompanied by singing. If it is reaping the women sing; if it is rowing in a boat the men sing. I think if they were in the deepest distress they would all join in a chorus.

#### HERRINGS.

With all their saving and care they want spirit to venture, for none of these farmers will attach themselves to fishing, which would be more beneficial to them than either raising corn or cattle. Herrings come in such shoals that vessels might be loaded with them. In September after we went there, the herrings were so plentiful that a fleet of ships might have been freighted with them. The country people had no salt to cure them, and they were left to rot and putrify, when they might have been boiled for oil. At our house they got some boat loads and gutted them, afterwards hanging them up by thousands in the barn, so that the wind could get to them and dry them, but they smelt so for want of salt that I wondered they could make a dinner of them. It is in their barns that they dry everything, as it is constantly raining. The barn is made of a framework of timber, thatched at the top, and



the sides wattled with hazel rods. The wind drives through it, and in this way they dry their corn and hay, which they bring into the barn wet, and place it on a kind of sloping scaffold, adding fresh portions as the former dries.

#### VICTUALS.

The victuals being so poor, the people cannot work well. A peck of oatmeal, or 9 lbs., is the allowance for six men in the day. Part is made into cakes and part into brochan. The women's allowance is one-half that of the men, and when they get meal they have nothing else allowed them. I could not eat their brochan and bad fish, and all I could get was milk mixed with whey or buttermilk. I am sure a farmer's servant in England, with proper food and wages, will do more work than four of their stoutest men. They also spend much of their time in telling idle stories, and singing doggrel rhymes and nonsense; for when they used to explain them as well as they could in English, I could not perceive that there was much sense in their songs. Neither time nor season will make them exert themselves the more, though the loss of what they are about should be the consequence.

#### ISLAND OF SKYE.

In December we went to the Island of Skye, to the house that young Mr Macleod of Gesto had provided for us. It had been the residence of the Dowager Lady Macleod, but was sadly out of repair. There were no windows in the lower rooms, and the rain came in at the roof. But there was a middling good room and a closet above stairs, and there was no family but our own in the house. My mistress got a servant maid that could speak English. Provisions were dear and scarce almost to a famine, and I had great distances to go for everything, acting the part both of man and horse. I used to go for butter and cheese to a place called Boreland, which was seventeen miles from our house. I once made this journey and back again the same day with 75 lbs. of butter and cheese on my back, but the creel blistered me severely. I have several times, when meal was to be sold at Dunvegan, brought a boll, or 160 lbs. weight, home on my back, a distance of five miles. I often used to cross the mountains to Portree to buy tea and sugar, with any other articles I could get, and this journey would be betwixt thirty and forty miles for me. There are no bridges over the many rivulets in the island, and there was no other way of crossing but by fording them, yet though



I was thus continually on my feet and out in everlasting rains, I cannot say that I ever had colds. The Highland gentry are fond of going about from place to place to visit one another, sometimes being a fortnight or three weeks from home; and when they return they perhaps carry along with them those they have been staying with. This they call hospitality, but it is only paying them in their own way by killing time together. A stranger such as I was, and in a humble situation, need not go to the Highlands and Islands. If the Highland servant's master rides anywhere, the man must run after him on foot, be it ever so far; and when they come to the place they are going to, he may be for hours without getting any thing to eat or drink, although he is melting with heat and wet with running through bogs and fording streams. In the summer of 1784 we began to live better. We got two cows to milk, and we began to provide for ourselves. We cut peats and dried them. We also commissioned a barrel of flour and a barrel of biscuit from Liverpool. In November we bought a cow and killed it for winter keep. Oatmeal was very dear, being at the rate of £1 8s the boll. I went in a boat and bought six sheep, giving 4s 6d a-piece for them, afterwards killing and salting them. We also laid in our stock of butter and cheese for the winter; and fortunate it was for us that we were so provident, for the winter of 1784 was a dreadful one in the Highlands. The crops were poor, and the snow was so deep and lay so long on the ground that numbers of the cattle died, some of the farmers losing eighty and a hundred each. Everything was so scarce that the people eat the meat of those cattle that died, many of them without any salt to it. It was a distressing sight to see in every place you came nigh the men skinning the dead cattle, and cutting off the fleshy parts for food.

When snow lies long in the Highlands a great many cattle are always lost. No provision is made for them in the summer, the farmers depending entirely on the openness of the winter in that part of the country from its proximity to the sea. They have a great deal of rain, and though the oats and barley may grow well enough, it is often spoiled in the getting in, owing to the winds and rains at that season. For this reason the gentleman farmers, instead of raising corn, breed droves of black cattle, which they sell every year. The drovers come and purchase them, and drive them to the south country. There is a great want of method in their management, and it keeps a



number of idle fellows about a farm-house who could be dispensed with, but then the system in time of war gives the gentlemen more consequence. The heads of clans obtain leave to raise regiments, and are successful, though many of the men are taken sorely against their will.

#### HIGHLAND FUNERAL.

In June 1785 old Mr Macleod of Island-reach died. When a gentleman dies in the Highlands the funeral is attended by all the people of that part of the country; and at the place of interment there is a great quantity of meat and liquor provided. At Mr Macleod's funeral I suppose they baked four or five bolls of meal and killed two or three cows, besides several sheep and fowls; and there would be ten or twelve ankers of spirits. The provisions and drink are distributed promiscuously among the people, who are seated out of doors, and those who are fond of liquor return home intoxicated enough.

#### RETURN JOURNEY.

Captain Macleod, son of my old master, arrived in Skye in the latter end of May, after he had stopped some time in Inverness, and taken a lodging there for the family, and left orders with a Miss Fraser to buy furniture for the house. The first time we heard of his being in the island was at the Portree market; and I went and met him at Grishernish. He was soon tired of Skye, and impatient to be gone. He made me easy on account of my wages for past services; our baggage was packed up, and in the beginning of June we left Balmore, having lived there a year and a-half. Our baggage was carried in a boat as far as Drynoch. We stayed the first night at Gesto; next morning the family went up to the head of the loch by boat, and the horses were sent round to meet them at Drynoch. There were, as escort for the family, Mr Macleod of Gesto and Mr M'Caskill, a lieutenant in the army. After some time we got all ready, and our caravan began to move. We were soon at Sconser, where we took boat to Scalpa, and lodged there that night. Next day it blew and rained hard, but we were in such poor quarters and were so impatient to be gone that we took the boat again. At Broadford we got a larger boat, but the wind was much against us, and it came on a thick fog. At last we got to Kirkton, in Glenelg, and stayed in the tavern all night. In the morning we went to Mr Murchison's. The weather being now fine, we got to Shiel House that afternoon;



and next day we travelled through Strathlong, being much fatigued ere we reached Anoch. The following morning we got to Fort-Augustus, and were made welcome by Governor Trapaud. The captain was so impatient to be in his own house at Inverness that we got a boat that day to carry us down the loch. At the bottom of Loch-Ness the Captain and I left Mrs Macleod and the children, and we walked on to the town, putting up at John Ettles's New Inn. Next day we fetched the family in a chaise, and took possession of our lodgings on the 21st of June 1785. The house was pretty well furnished, better than we had seen for some years. We had four rooms on one floor, with a garret and a cellar for £8 10s the year; likewise a small garden, for which we paid £1. I hired a maid-servant at £1 4s the year.

Abram was now comfortably settled, with only regular domestic duties to discharge. The Captain paid him his arrears of wages, and he had a windfall of £55—a legacy which he received from Yorkshire. He had also £20 by the death of another relation. In 1793 his young master—the second son of the family—obtained a commission in the army, and Abram withdrew his money from the bank to lend to the young officer. “If I had been master of thousands,” he says, “he would have had it all from me, for my heart was bound up in him. I went with him to Cromarty, and stayed with him from Wednesday to Sunday morning, the 10th of November. I left him about seven in the morning in bed, for I had not the courage to wait for his getting up, but came away without any refreshment or breakfast. I went crying through the streets like a child; and the day being windy and boisterous, I did not get to Inverness until two in the afternoon.” This money was faithfully repaid, and Abram must have been comparatively wealthy in his old age, for in 1803, when the journal breaks off abruptly, he had £325 saved. His mistress, whom he had served so long, died on the 4th of January 1803, “and was buried on the 7th of the month in Inverness burying-ground, in the Laird of Macleod's burial-place.”



## THE HIGHLANDS IN 1791.

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### A REPORT BY THE S.P.C.K.

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In course of looking over the volumes of the "Courier" we came on traces of a report on the condition of the Highlands in 1791, issued by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. Through the courtesy of Mr Nisbet, W.S., secretary to the Highland Education Trust (the successor of the S.P.C.K.), we have obtained a copy of this report, and give it below. It will interest many readers as an authentic document, issued at a time when social changes were going forward in the Highlands. Although not complimentary to landlords, it does not hesitate to lay a finger on the economic side of the question. Remedies were proposed in a hopeful spirit, but we can see now that they had no chance of success.

The origin of the Report is given as follows in the proceedings of the Society from September 1790 to November 1791. "The remote Western Highlands and Islands, of all the counties of Scotland, were the least known to the Society, and of all those to which their attention is called by their patents, had least experienced the benefit of their institution. It was resolved that the secretary should visit these distant and widely extended districts, enquire into the state of religion, literature, and industry among their inhabitants, and report to the Society such plans as should appear most likely to promote their improvement. A general outline of a tour for this purpose was agreed upon by the directors in concert with the secretary; and he was instructed to begin his journey as soon after the anniversary meeting in June as possible."

The secretary at the time was the Rev. Dr John Kemp, collegiate minister of Tolbooth Church, Edinburgh. He had been translated to that church from Trinity Gask in 1779, and in 1789 was elected to the office of secretary to the S.P.C.K. The notice given of him in Scott's *Fasti* says—"His able and successful exertions in favour of



the above-mentioned Society well merited their respect and gratitude. The tours which were continued by him for successive years were essentially useful in producing a body of information respecting their schools and missions in the Highlands." Among his publications is mentioned an *Account of the Society*, published in 1796. Dr Kemp died in 1805, in the 61st year of his age and the 36th of his ministry.

Subjoined is the report:—

Excerpt from the Report of the Directors of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge for the year to November 1791:—

A variety of causes have contributed to produce that rage for emigration to America, which now obtains, in many parts of the Highlands and Islands. Among these are to be numbered, it is true, the causes commonly assigned, viz., the dispeopling in great measure of large tracts of country in order to make room for sheep—the conversion of small into great farms, to the exclusion of the inferior order of tenants—the prejudice, almost invincible, which many Highland proprietors entertain against granting any leases, or leases of a sufficient length to encourage the tenant's to improve their farms—the eagerness with which some landholders raise their rents, while they furnish neither the means nor instruction as to the manner by which the tenants may be enabled to pay them; the non-residence of the proprietors, and their total want of tenderness for, or attention to their people, in consequence of which the ancient confidence and affection subsisting between chiefs and their clans are greatly weakened, in some parts of the country totally annihilated. Add to these the claims of affection and kindred vehemently urged, by those who have already emigrated, on their friends and neighbours at home to induce them to follow their example; and the flattering, perhaps insidious, representations of agents, employed by purchasers of land in America to engage settlers to remove to their estates; add likewise the contagion of example and the infectious spirit of wandering which often, without reason from the immediate pressure of grievances felt, seizes upon a body of people, and you have a list of the commonly assigned, and in part true causes of



emigration. At the same time, an attentive and general observation of the present state of the Highlands and Islands, it is imagined, will fully warrant the assertion that the great and most universally operating cause of emigration is *that in comparison of the means of subsistence which they afford, these countries are greatly overstocked with inhabitants.*

Intestine wars and feuds, by which numbers of them in former ages were cut off, have for many years been unknown. No drains for the supply of the army and navy have of late been made. Add to this that the people are prolific to an uncommon degree. Want and misery staring them in the face, prevent not, among these simple uncorrupted people, the early marriage of both sexes; and the children seldom fail to be numerous.

The climate in these countries is generally unfriendly to the growth of corn. Rains prevail through a great part of the year; seed-time and harvest are late, and the scanty crop is with difficulty got in, seldom without injury from the weather. Oats and barley, or rather bear, both of an inferior kind, are almost the only species of grain raised in these countries. Oats at an average yield only about three, and bear about six returns. The expense of raising even these poor crops in comparison of their value is immense. From these various causes many most intelligent observers of the state of these countries are of opinion that the raising of corn ought seldom comparatively to be attempted in the Western Highlands and Islands, and that the attention of farmers ought to be confined to the improvement of their pasture lands, and the cultivation of potatoes and other green crops. Were the odious and unproductive tax upon coals to be abolished, and the salt laws so amended or explained that that essential commodity might be furnished in abundance to the people for the curing of their fish for home-consumption, their condition would be amended to an astonishing degree. But to the complete improvement of the country and the situation of its inhabitants the introduction of manufactures is indispensably necessary. Of these they are ignorant to a degree, almost inconceivable by people who live only a hundred miles from them.

Spinning on the wheel, the simplest



branch of female industry, is in many parts of the country almost unknown. The coarse cloths used for home consumption, both linen and woollen, are spun by the women on the distaff, chiefly while engaged in attending the cattle or in the labours of the field, a great part of the drudgery of which is performed by them while the men are either idle or engaged in fishing. Women carry seaweed to the kelp kilns and manure to the fields on their backs, and in many respects are used as beasts of burden. To almost all the arts of female industry within doors they are strangers, so that the greatest part of the winter months they spend in absolute idleness, subsisting along with the rest of the families to which they belong upon two meals of the coarsest fare in the 24 hours; and happy would the bulk of the people in these countries deem themselves if even, of such fare, they had twice in the day what would satisfy the demands of nature.

The introduction of manufactures into these countries of all expedients is the best adapted for their improvement. This is a proposition too obvious to require proof or illustration. Difficulties as may be naturally supposed must attend the accomplishment of this object; but were proprietors to pay that attention to it, which its importance to their own interest as well as the happiness of their people demand, it is imagined that these difficulties would soon be found not only not unsurmountable but easy to be overcome.

Among the causes which contributed to prevent the success of former attempts for the introduction of manufactures into the Highlands, may be reckoned the very great expense in buildings, salaries of agents, factors, etc., with which they were conducted, and their aiming at too high objects at the outset.

To begin with the simplest principles; to make the people employed feel the immediate and full benefit of their own industry and to proceed gradually, suffering the manufacture to support itself, or nearly so, in its various progressive stages, seems to be the most probable, as it surely is the least hazardous mode of ensuring success.

The spinning of flax, hemp, cotton, or wool is the first step towards the introduction of the manufactures best adapted to the Highlands and Islands. Different



opinions are entertained as to which of them the preference is due. The argument in favour of wool, the raw material being the produce of the country, is unquestionably strong. But if inclination, convenience, or interest, should lead to a preference of any of the rest, why should not the experiment be made? Let but the spirit of the habits and profits of industry be introduced among the people, and one species of manufacture will be found by no means to interfere with another. It will rather excite an emulation favourable to all. Habits of application and industry when once formed may easily be directed into that channel which experience shall teach to be most advantageous.

Indolence is commonly considered as the most predominant feature in the character of the Highlanders. Nothing can be a greater mistake. No people are more quick-sighted in discerning their own interest, when placed within the sphere of their observation, or more patient or persevering in its pursuit. If, indeed, when but half-fed and half-clothed, their spirit broken by oppression, and they forced to labour, not for themselves or their families, but for others, their exertions are but feeble it is not to be wondered. But whenever the Highlanders enjoy the common advantages which free Britons do in other parts of the kingdom, experience and observation warrant the assertion that they are excelled by none in quickness of apprehension or alertness of execution. Their spirit and activity in the army and navy are well known and have been the subject of many eulogiums from persons of the most distinguished character. Their sobriety, regularity, and steadiness in common life are no less highly celebrated by all who have occasion to employ them as labourers or artisans in works in which use has taught them skill and dexterity.

How much then will it be a subject of regret, if a body of people possessing such natural capacities of usefulness shall in consequence of the spirit of emigration to America, which now prevails, be for ever lost to their own country! However unconcerned many proprietors may be as to this point; however they may coldly and unfeelingly think, and declare, that whatever loss the public may sustain, emigration is of advantage to them by relieving their estates of a useless incumbrance;



some gentlemen of extensive fortune and influence more liberal and extensive in their views have manifested a laudable zeal for the prevention of so great an evil to their country, and the patriotic exertions of some private citizens who have of late distinguished themselves by the wise and prudent plans they have devised for this purpose will not, it is hoped, fail of success.

The secretary was assured upon authority, which appeared to him conclusive, that since the year 1772 no less than sixteen vessels full of emigrants have sailed from the western parts of the counties of Inverness and Ross alone, containing, it is supposed, 6400 souls, and carrying with them, in specie, at least £38,400 sterling.

Administration, it is scarcely to be doubted, will take this matter into serious consideration and adopt such measures as in a consistency with the liberties and genius of a free people, and united with the efforts of individuals and private societies may induce the inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands still to retain their wonted preference of their native country above every foreign clime.

To introduce and give encouragement to manufactures among them it has already been stated is one of the most obvious and easy to be accomplished methods which can be followed for this purpose; and to the attainment of this object the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge will not be wanting by such measures as, upon mature investigation, shall appear to be best adapted to the end. Of these one of the simplest, as well as most congenial, to their institution and practices is the appointment of persons properly qualified to teach the first rudiments of industry and manufacture to a rude and ignorant people. But they will naturally look for, and insist upon, the countenance and co-operation of the proprietors of those estates into which these improvements are proposed to be introduced.



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